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WORLD SOCCER AWARDS 1990

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October's issue each year provides you, our readers, with the opportunity to vote for the World Soccer personalities of this soccer year.
The three categories in our awards remain as follows:

World Soccer Player of the Year
World Soccer Manager of the Year
World Soccer Team of the Year

Obviously, in World Cup year, most of the attention and focus has been on the stars of Italia '9. Thus it is inevitable that many voters will be attracted by the claims of West Germany's Lothar Matthäus and Jürgen Klinsmann, or by Argentine skipper Diego Maradona – playing despite a toe injury which would have ruled him out of league action – or by Italy's Toto Schillaci.

England's Paul Gascoigne and David Platt, Cameroon's Roger Milla and Francois Omam Biyik are others with claims on your votes.

In the manager award, the likes of Franz Beckenbauer cannot be ignored. But then, other managers – such as Bora Milutinovic and Francisco Maturana – made their presence felt at the highest levels.

Yet the World Cup was not the only major action of the year. The South American club cup has seen major tussles involving Bebeto's Vasco da Gama and Rene Higuita's Atletico Nacional; in Europe, Ruud Gullit returned to duty in time to help Milan retain the Champions' Cup, Gianluca Vialli's goals brought Sampdoria their first international prize in the Cup-winners' Cup while Juventus, amid controversy over their impending world record capture of Roberto Baggio, regained the UEFA Cup.

All worthy of your vote!
Send your entries, only on postcards or the backs of sealed envelopes, to:
World Soccer Awards
25th Floor
King's Reach Tower
Stamford Street
London SE1 9LS

Above: Colombia's manager Francisco Maturana and European Cup Champions AC Milan.

Top candidates, Gascoigne and Matthäus and below Italy's Schillaci.

Curse of the Faroes!

Incredible Islanders sink Austria's World Cup boss

THE Faroe Islands have achieved what World Cup hosts Italy could not – toppling Austria's national manager Josef Hickersberger.

The newcomers' shock 1-0 victory in Landskrona, Sweden, was the last straw for Hickersberger.

He had only narrowly survived the World Cup disappointment of defeats by Italy and Czechoslovakia followed by the public grumblings of skipper and star striker, Toni Polster.

Three days after the Faroes fiasco Hickersberger resigned – handing over the reins to his under-21s boss, Alfred Riedl.

The Faroes' 1-0 victory over World Cup finalists Austria – courtesy of a second-half goal by Torkil Nielsen – ranks, in European championships terms, as something akin to England's historic defeat by the United States in the 1950 World Cup.

Yet there are no grass pitches to be found anywhere on these 18 islands 250 miles north of the Shetlands and thus roughly halfway between Scotland and Iceland in the north Atlantic.

The damp and stormy weather turns turf into mud in no time so the Faroe Islands' championship was the world's first to be played out entirely on plastic grass.

That is banned for international

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

matches, which is why the Faroes had to play their 'home' tie against Austria in Sweden.

They hope to raise enough money from this European campaign to buy a high-tech turf pitch which will survive the islands' climate.

Nobody would challenge such an investment. The population of the Faroes is only 45,000 yet 4,000 – almost ten per cent of the population – turned out to watch a recent friendly international against Iceland, a sort of Arctic derby.

Little wonder soccer is so popular. Entertainment is at a premium. You won't find any bars in the capital of Thorshavn and alcohol is rationed.

The new heroes of the Faroes are all amateurs, working from nine to five and training in the evenings.

They include a baker, a carpenter, a bank clerk, several students, a car salesman and a fishmonger.

National team skipper Joanness Jakobsen manages his fiancee's dental practice and earns a spare-time living as a folk singer.

The Faroe Islands have been self-governing under the Danish crown since 1948. They elect their own Prime Minister and government of just six MPs. They mint their own coins, print their own postage stamps, live off a prosperous fishing industry – and have been playing football for more than 100 years.

Only two years ago the Faroes, somewhat to their own officials' surprise, were voted in as FIFA's 166th member nation.

A championship was launched in 1942 and a proper Football Association constituted only in 1979. Now more than 5,000 players are registered by the 22 clubs spread through the four divisions of a league which operates in the 'light' months between April and October.

Flag-happy Faroes ... Julian Hansen celebrates the historic victory over Austria.

Austria expected to score five or six goals without too much difficulty. After all, they lined up strikers such as Polster and Gerhard Rodax, whose Spanish employers, Sevilla and Atletico Madrid, have invested a joint £5 million in their shooting boots.

Such sophistication was no match for the pride of the Faroes, whose victory will have unnerved future championship rivals Denmark, Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland.

Jakobsen says: 'We know we will suffer some heavy defeats. But we are proud to represent our country.'

Already the Faroes have experienced better luck than the last time they entered a competitive tournament.

That was in 1968, in an unofficial Inter-island Cup between the Faroes, the Orkneys and the Shetlands.

The unpredictable weather took its toll. Some matches had to be abandoned. Several times a team was stranded on the 'wrong' island for days. The Faroes team was once lost in the Atlantic in a gale for 24 hours.

How times change. This time it was Austria's turn to be all at sea.

Taylor passes first test

ENGLAND started the Graham Taylor regime with a 1-0 win over Hungary in a Wembley friendly, but there are harder times ahead.

The tough stuff could begin with the home game against Poland in the European Championship this month. Perhaps new skipper Gary Lineker and his media darling team-mate, Paul Gascoigne, will find the heights of Italia 90 turning into depths.

In the same group, the Republic of Ireland begin at home to Turkey. Scotland started with a home win over Romania and should repeat that against the Swiss, while Northern Ireland are at home to the Danes.

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Striker Hugo Sanchez of Real Madrid. See pages 16-18.

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Beckenbauer praises Gili after Marseille beat Dinamo of Albania 5-1 in the Champions Cup.

TALE OF TWO CITIES...

£20 million mess in Bordeaux as Marseille swoop for Beckenbauer

MARSEILLE have just splashed out almost half a million pounds on a two-year contract to sign Franz Beckenbauer as technical director; almost simultaneously their greatest rivals, Bordeaux, are revealed as being £20million in the red.

The two sides of the same financial coin have rocked French soccer. Does Marseille's millionaire president Bernard Tapie know what he is doing? And is he risking the same humiliation now being heaped on Bordeaux boss Claude Bez?

Time alone will tell. But in the disastrous collapse of one club are sown surely the lessons for the other. As the Tottenham crisis in England demonstrates, soccer is a very particular industry to which the normal business rules and regulations do not necessarily apply.

The way in which Bez had played the millionaire's power game brought him notoriety and his club success. Now it has brought both to the brink of ruin. Will Tapie prove any more successful? And that is not an original question but one on many financial experts' lips when he pounced in the summer to buy the West German sportswear giant, adidas – at a price far in excess of the value of Tapie's own holding company.

The 1970s were all about coaches and managers (Hennes Weisweiler at In, Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest, Cesar Menotti in Argentina, etc). In the 1980s the focus of the game swung back towards players. Now the 1990s look like being dominated by the presidents.

Santiago Bernabeu at Real Madrid and Gianni Agnelli at Juventus were the first enthusiasts for the game who turned financial and political power into goals. They have been emulated by the likes of Silvio Berlusconi at Milan, Jose Luis Nunez at Barcelona, Jacques Ruts at PSV Eindhoven and a string of others. High on that list you will also find Tapie and Bez.

Bez fashioned Bordeaux into the team of the 1980s in France. But the groundwork was laid on March 22, 1974 when Bez, an up-and-coming accountant, was appointed club treasurer by unsuspecting president Jean Roureau. Six months later Bez, not yet 34, was vice-president. Three more years and he was president.

He had been born little more than a stone's throw from the Girondins' stadium and followed in the family accountancy business. One of his first acts, on taking over in 1978, was to seek an audience with the city's powerful mayor, Jacques Chaban-Delmas. Bez promised a great football team in return to municipal support in terms of funding and financial guarantees. Chaban-Delmas told him: "Agreed – but it must be all above board. I don't want any scandals."

Bez was happy to provide that guarantee. And why should anyone doubt the word of a man who, according to his father, Gaston, could be brought to the brink of tears by watching Little House on the Prairie?

The initial years were not particularly promising. A former international midfielder, Didier Couecou, was appointed general manager and lasted the best part of a decade. Trainers came and went rather more often. The veteran Argentine, Luis Carniglia, was the first. He quit in October, 1979, to make way for the Belgian, Raymond Goethals. He lasted through to the end of term and was then replaced by Aime Jacquet. At last, Bordeaux had found the coach they needed. One year later and they had found Europe. They would miss out on continental competition only once in the next decade.

Jacquet, former Lyon halfback, provided the discipline and the 'language' which the more sophisticated Carniglia and Goethals had lacked. He achieved a far better rapport with the players.

Carniglia had made his reputation taking Real Madrid to the Champions' Cup in 1957 and 1958; Goethals had constructed the excellent Anderlecht side which dominated Belgian soccer in the 1960s. But the players were a little in awe of both men; they lacked the give-and-take in ideas which Jacquet encouraged. In due course, Jacquet would become ever less flexible and himself become a victim. But that was later. He was the guiding iron hand behind Bordeaux's domination of French domestic football in the mid-1980s. The Girondins were champions in 1984, 1985 and 1987 and cup-winners in 1986 and 1987. Also in 1985 they reached the semi-finals of the Champions' Cup (losing to eventual winners Juventus) while two years later they were semi-finalists in the Cup-winners' Cup (losing on penalties to Lokomotive Leipzig).

Europe was the key to everything. It was tangible proof of ongoing success, it kept crowds up, television coverage up and sponsorship up. Without Europe, the outlook would be very different. Bez said: "Bordeaux can be missing from European competition for one season but not for two. My hope is that, thanks to the development work we have undertaken, that safety gap can be pushed back to two, three or four years."

The developments included a hotel, a restaurant, a tennis club, two boutiques, two office blocks and a local radio station. The aim – as with Tottenham, it seems – was that the various other enterprises would provide financial security for the football. In practice, it didn't work out quite like that.

Simultaneously, Bez was busily extending his overall influence within the French game. In the October of 1988 the French national team had been held 1-1 in Cyprus. The match had been a World Cup tie and the result put France at a distinct disadvantage compared with group rivals Yugoslavia and Scotland. The French players looked tired and unenthusiastic. It was no secret that some were vastly at odds with manager Henri Michel over tactics and personnel.

Bez, off his own bat, came up with the solution. Following Bordeaux to Budapest to play Ujpest Dozsa in a second round UEFA Cup-tie, in his role as TV analyst, was Michel Platini. He had retired from playing, had become vice-president of his original club, Nancy, but his grandiose plans for his life beyond football were not going according to plan. Platini's ambition to lead a major TV current affairs interview series had fallen through; a leisurewear scheme was struggling.

Conspired

Platini and Bez were acquaintances through football. Nothing more. But circumstances conspired such that Bez obtained Platini's word that, should the position of national manager fall vacant, he would be seriously interested. Bez took that promise to the French federation in Paris. In effect he told them: "Drop Henri Michel and I can deliver Platini as national manager." There was one condition, providing Bez himself with a role as a national team director.

Michel was duly eased aside, Platini appointed. Bez, it seemed, had a controlling interest in every facet of the French game. But, in one area, he was on a loser. Bez is no Berlusconi or Agnelli, with his own media outlets to pay him court and treat him gently. His relations with the French press were brusque, to say the least. He soon developed a reputation for banning reporters or photographers whose work, in his opinion, overstepped the mark.

That was harmless for Bez and Bordeaux when the provincial Press were the victims. It was entirely another when Bez took on the Paris sports daily, L'Equipe.

Now L'Equipe takes itself very seriously, often too seriously, so when Bez tried to ban L'Equipe there was hell to play. The entire soccer reporting media called a day of action – publishing only briefest match details and no reports. Bez had all the press phone installations in the Bordeaux press box pulled out by way of retaliation. But the action had been so impressively well-co-ordinated nationally that the French federation jumped in to mediate and to achieve an uneasy truce.

But the point had been made. There would be favours for Bez from the media. Bez, in turn, began to increasingly sensitive to Press comment and began to suspect his growing number of political critics of orchestrating a media campaign against him.

It was, then, no surprise that it was not through the federation or the club or the city council, that first hints of the impending disaster, appeared ... but in the press. Not L'Equipe, on this occasion, but L'Express.

In January last year the paper's financial editors obtained documents showing that Bordeaux were overdue paying a £1million tax bill while £6,000 had been paid to Bez's son for supervising the construction of the superb new training camp at Haillan, near Bordeaux. This was also, according to L'Express, not the only project in which Bez's relatives had figured in a professional capacity.

Only a matter of weeks later, in February last year, Bordeaux put their two properties up for sale. Simultaneously – whether deliberately or through coincidence – a huge smoke screen was created as far as the fans were concerned by the signing of controversial Eric Cantona, the dismissal of long-serving coach Jacquet and the managerial appointment of a partnership between Couecou and veteran midfielder Alain Giresse.

The immediate result was elimination from the French cup by second division Beauvais and a slide to 13th in the league. That was Bordeaux's worst finish in 12 years. The Couecou-Giresse tandem was swiftly disolved and Goethals, now 68, recalled as coach. Bez could no longer spare the time for his role with the French national team and resigned – creating more scandalised headlines with a parting shot in which he suggested that, amid failure to wave the magic wand Bez had expected, Platini should quit!

Further complications entered Bez's life in the shape of another Bordeaux: in this case one Francois-Xavier Bordeaux, leader of the opposition Socialist party on the city council. In March this year, complaining bitterly and vociferously about municipal investment in the club, he forecast that Bordeaux would end the season £11million in debt. He also produced the first demand for Bez to resign.

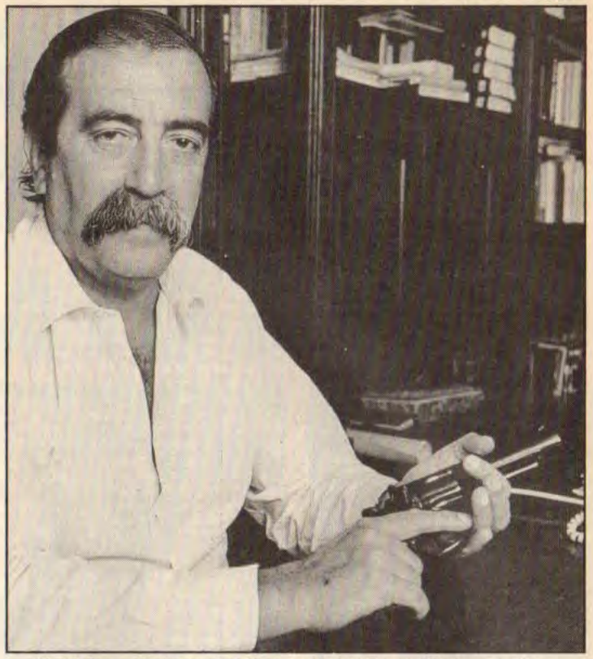
Chaban-Delmas, still the mayor and still in charge, sought to play down the growing crisis, agreeing that the club owed money but insisting that these were "not real debts, merely trading items."

Refused

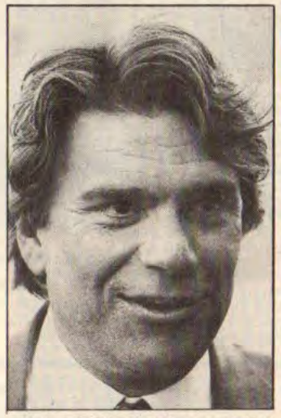
Francois-Xavier Bordeaux refused to give up. Two months later, in May, with the club awaiting council backing for a £12million loan from a leading finance house, he estimated that the club was now between £15million and £20million in the red and that the council dare not offer the financial guarantees Bez was seeking. Indeed, it seemed the council might have been in breach of the law in securing the loan. The regional council had complained to the city that it was illegal for municipal authorities to guarantee loans taken out by private companies.

Bordeaux desperately needed success out on the pitch to keep the wolf from the door. But by now Tapie was investing in new players for Marseille at a rate of francs Bordeaux had no hope of matching. The bitter rivalry between the clubs and their presidents was growing apace. The tension surrounding matches between them did nothing to help. Bez was infuriated when a section of the Marseille crowd threw bananas at his Cameroon goalkeeper, Joseph-Antoine Bell.

Goethals used all his experience to bring some calm back within the squad. Bordeaux led the league for much of last season but Marseille, postponing matches as they progressed in Europe, were always in command of the situation and pulled away on the run-in to finish two points clear.



Claude Bez ... finger on the trigger and below Bernard Tapie ... at risk.



The summer brought a clear-out. Bez had always said that every player had his price in the service of the club. Now he proved the point. Out went international midfielder Bernard Pardo, Dutchman Piet Den Boer, Danish winger Jesper Olsen, veteran midfielder Genghini and international striker Stephane Paille on loan to FC Porto. At a fraction of the cost Bez brought in Dutchman Wim Kieft from PSV Eindhoven, Belgian midfielder Patrick Vervoort from Anderlecht and the Algerian midfielder Alim Ben Mabrouk.

The departure of Pardo must have been the most galling: sold to Marseille ...

The shake-up in personnel, though it may have slightly improved the financial situation, did nothing for results. The first three matches this season brought two draws and one defeat. On August 8 Goethals was dismissed and assistant Gernot Rohr stepped up as caretaker. The consolation for Bez must have been in saving one hefty salary.

Less than two weeks later the playing crisis had been replaced in the headlines by the financial crisis. And there was more – an announcement that the public prosecutor's office had launched an investigation into alleged financial anomalies.

Francois-Xavier Bordeaux repeated his allegations that the club was £20million in the red with heavy sums owed to the tax authorities and the social services. He pointed out chillingly that all it would need was one small push from either of those civil service monoliths and the club would crash right now, in mid-season.

This was not merely a threat to Bordeaux but to the rest of the league. Many officials and fans remembered the gloomy 1960s when the inter-relation of club finances, through the transfer chain, sent clubs toppling into bankruptcy one after another, like a house of cards.

Bullish

Bez, whatever his bullish pronouncements in public, must now have realised that the situation – like the fires raging through the French countryside – was out of control. Gone was the jaunty pride of the man who so provocatively drove his own black Cadillac to the match at Marseille last season, flanked not only by police but by his body-guards.

His departure was now only a matter of time. On Monday, September 10, he drove for a showdown meeting with Chaban-Delmas. Already, Jean-Pierre Derose, a local entrepreneur whose main sports involvement had previously been to organise the local tennis tournament, was waiting in the wings to be appointed interim president with the city council's blessing.

Then came the other bombshell: virtually simultaneously, Franz Beckenbauer agreed terms to take over as technical director of Marseille.

Marseille president Tapie was supposed to have made his peace with Bez. But, if he had deliberately timed his swoop, he could hardly have chosen a more delicately effective moment in which to emphasise exactly who was top dog

CONTINUE OVER

SPECIAL REPORT FROM FRANCE BY KEIR RADNEDGE

TALE OF TWO CITIES...

CONTINUED

now in French football.

Bernard Tapie had turned himself into a social and financial phenomenon. Now 46, he grew up in the Paris suburbs where his father worked as a boilerman. Tapie's first job was hauling coal sacks during the school holidays. He didn't like that so he tried his luck as a pop singer and failed again. Then he got a job as a television salesman and suddenly found his metier. He was so persuasive a salesman that once he even sold a TV set to a policeman booking him for speeding.

Once Tapie had some capital to his name he went in for asset-stripping, buying failing companies for next-to-nothing and skimming off the successful sections. No market was beyond Tapie's Midas touch: health food, batteries, ski bindings, weighing machines and, of course, televisions.

Soon he was able to indulge in the trappings of fame: a helicopter, an executive jet, a yacht and a Porsche. A sports fanatic, he bought a cycle racing team and hired Tour de France winners Bernard Hinault and Greg LeMond. From that it was but a small step to buying up struggling Marseille – a great club with a fanatic following and a seedy history – and carrying out an asset-stripping exercise in soccer, too.

Tapie had several times tried to get into football and failed. Just before he bought Marseille he had toyed with the idea of taking over Belgium's Standard Liege. But Marseille fitted ideally with his other ambitions: for Tapie also had political dreams and would, in 1988, stand successfully in the city for election to parliament as an independent MP.

That election was one element in a remarkable hat-trick for Tapie. That same year Marseille won the league-and-cup double while his tennis equipment company, Donnay, signed an exclusive contract with the most outrageously attired of new tennis stars, Andre Agassi.

Tapie's personal fortune is estimated at more than £100million, which is hardly surprising when you consider that Marseille is just one among the 50 companies he owns. Marseille, however, remain the one with the highest profile. Tapie wants to see Marseille become the first French club to win the European Champions' Cup. Last season a controversial handball goal by Vata of Benfica, barred Marseille's way to the Final. This season Milan and the rest should beware: Marseille have an even stronger team.

There is no sentiment in Tapie's treatment of his employees, whether on the football pitch or the shop floor. He has spent around £25million on players in his four years in charge of Marseille and that total would have been far higher if his audacious bid for Diego Maradona, in the summer of 1989, had proved successful.

Tapie may yet get his man. He is convinced that only Napoli's stubbornness impeded a deal last year. And he is not afraid of buying big: he proved that this summer by buying the West German sportswear giant, adidas, for £160million.

The adidas deal was the key to Tapie's capture of Beckenbauer.

Tapie has a high regard for achievement. When he bought Marseille he prised Michel Hidalgo away from a comfortable background job within the French federation. That had been Hidalgo's reward for winning the 1984 European championship and reaching the semi-finals of the 1986 World Cup.

But, after two years in the shadows, Hidalgo had regained his appetite for the game. Tapie virtually forced him out of the federation and appointed him as manager, bought Jean Tigana to run his midfield and provided a selection of tracksuit coaches to run the team under Hidalgo's wing. One such coach was Gerard Banide, another the current boss – or, at least, he was at the start of term – Gerard Gili. Whether he will remain beyond the end of this season is open to doubt now that Beckenbauer has arrived with his own entourage.

Beckenbauer, now 45, is the biggest name in the world football – a name synonymous with success, particularly after he became, in Rome in July, the only man ever to win the World Cup as both a captain then a manager. No player in the history of soccer has collected prizes and honours like Kaiser Franz. Not Pele, nor Matthews, nor Di Stefano, nor Puskas. He remains the only West German to have topped a century of international appearances: 103 in his case, mostly in his revolutionary role as attacking sweeper.

Beckenbauer played for SC06 Munich, Bayern (for most of his career), New York Cosmos and Hamburg and won almost everything:

* World Cup in 1974 (runner-up in 1966);
* European championship in 1972 (runner-up 1976);
* World Club Cup (1976);
* European Champions' Cup (1974, 1975, 1976);
* Cup-winners' Cup (1967);
* West German league (1969, 1972, 1973, 1974);
* West German cup (1966, 1967, 1969, 1971);
* North American Soccer League (1977, 1978, 1980)

Beckenbauer was also a runner-up in the UEFA Cup with Hamburg and a runner-up in the SuperCup with Bayern. He played 396 games (scoring 44 goals) for Bayern between 1965 and 1977; 80 games (17 goals) for Cosmos between 1977 and 1980; and 28 games for Hamburg between 1980 and 1982.

In 1984, when Jupp Derwall stepped down as West German manager after the disappointing exit in the European finals, Beckenbauer was a surprise replacement. In the past the job had been handed on to the national manager's assistant; also, Beckenbauer did not hold the German coaching certificate. So officially he was appointed not as "manager," but as "team chief."

On taking over, Beckenbauer warned: "I want an end to all this frustrating pushing the ball backwards and forwards by fat cat professionals – men with big contracts, Cartier gold chains around their necks, sunglasses in their tailored silk shirt pockets and Porsches in the stadium car parks."

His approach clearly worked with a somewhat pedestrian West German team finishing World Cup runners-up in 1986 and then a much-improved side winning the game's greatest trophy in Rome this summer.

Beckenbauer's contract duly ended this summer and he stepped down, as promised – but into an American mist of uncertainty. It was thought that Beckenbauer would take up a marketing and promotional role with the United States federation in the run-up to the 1994 World Cup. But confirmation had to await the USSF presidential elections and the defeat of incumbent Werner Fricker threw a spanner in the works. Binding agreement for Beckenbauer then depended on new discussions with Allen Rothenberg, the surprise new USSF president

Tapie provided, however, a twist to the saga. Beckenbauer had long been expected to take up, also, some sort of consultancy or promotional work with adidas. Indeed, as one of the most admired of footballers in the US after his years in the NASL, Beckenbauer looked just the man to front the adidas attack on the sportswear market in the run-up to the 1994 World Cup. How to resolve these opportunities had been Beckenbauer's lucrative dilemma. Tapie made it almost easy for him. Tapie wanted Beckenbauer's international expertise to bring Champions' Cup success for Marseille AND head the sportswear assault on the US. And, by mixing these responsibilities, Tapie could find the £1,6million-a-year cost of hiring Beckenbauer within the budgets of both Marseille and adidas. He provided for enormous bonuses in return for Champions' Cup and championship success (respectively £1.65million and £330,000) and agreed to appoint anyone Beckenbauer wanted on his staff – meaning at least his World Cup aide, Holger Osieck.

Beckenbauer flew to France on Saturday, September 8, to watch Marseille in action for the first time. The same morning a news item in the newspapers caught his eye – that Rothenberg envisaged Beckenbauer as consultant to the US World Cup effort for the two-year run-up from 1992.

Beckenbauer, taking up one job, was duly challenged on the other. He said: "We have no formal agreement. Up until 1992 I am at Marseille and only at Marseille. Also, I have an option for a third year here. In the United States here is no real championship, no real clubs. There are 2,000 colleges playing soccer, but they are spread over a vast continent. I would need 100 assistants to keep track of it all. I am sure the 1994 World Cup will be organised to perfection. But as for the US national team, that's another matter altogether."

After watching Marseille beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1, with goals from Waddle and Cantona, Beckenbauer was more guarded, saying only: "I can see there is plenty of work needed. Marseille have all the talent but they need more discipline and organisation. That cannot be achieved overnight."

Beckenbauer would not comment on the situation of coach Gili, who seems destined for an early exit. Tapie said enigmatically: "When you have been the captain of a 737 you move up to become co-pilot on a 747. I don't think there is any problem in that. Our 'aircraft' has grown in size and our personnel must reflect that. Anyway, Gili is only 38, he's just at the start of his career. The experience will stand him in good stead later on."

All of which failed to answer the one burning question: Why?

Why did Beckenbauer want to return to soccer when he could live the rest of his live off his promotional fame? Why did Beckenbauer seek such pressure so soon after stepping out from under the weight of the West German job?

Beckenbauer has worked at soccer all his life. He had driven himself from one success to another. Now soccer, it appears, is driving him. And then also, of course, we cannot discount the Tapie Effect. The man who sold a television to a traffic cop had clearly sold Marseille just as insidiously and powerfully. Signing Beckenbauer will compensate Tapie for missing out on Maradona. Tapie will also not be oblivious to the effect the deal will have in further distancing Marseille from Bordeaux, Tapie from Bez, and in pushing Tapie closer to the pinnacles already scaled by such as Berlusconi.

But soccer being the particular business it is, no-one dare predict what the future may hold for either club. Marseille appear to be unstoppable, on the up; Bordeaux are sliding. But Tapie, like his great rival Bez, is only human. Such is this tale of two cities which could run and run. The fun will be for the fans. And that, at the end of the day, is how it should be.

Old rivals ... Ferreri of Bordeaux and Tigana of Marseille.

LATEST NEWS: Gerard Gili, the Marseille coach effectively demoted by the arrival of Franz Beckenbauer, is adding his own contribution to the rivalry between Marseille and Bordeaux. Gili resigned the morning after Marseille's European Cup victory over Dinamo Tirana and is expected to take over next summer as head coach of ... Bordeaux.

HOW THEY FINISHED IN 20 YEARS' LEAGUE RIVALRY

Season	Bordeaux	Marseille
1977-78	16th	4th
Bez becomes president		
1978-79	10th	12th
1979-80	6th	19th
1980-81	3th	6th/Div 2
1982-83	2nd	4th/Div 2
1983-84	1st	1st/Div 2
1984-85	1st	17th
Champions' Cup semi-finals		
1985-86	3rd	17th
Cup-winners		
Tapie becomes president		
1986-87	1st	2nd
Cup-winners		
Cup-winners' Cup semi-finals		
1987-88	2nd	6th
1988-89	13th	1st
Cup-winners		
1989-90	2nd	1st
Champions' Cup semi-finals		

'WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN MILLA TO ITALY'

FRANCOIS Omam-Biyik, the centre-forward whose header beat a dithering Nery Pumpido and gave Cameroon victory in the World Cup curtain-raiser over Argentina in Milan, has changed clubs in France.

He has gone from Laval to Rennes where he remains searingly candid playing down the World Cup contribution made by Roger Milla, the 38-year-old scoring star of the side, and dismissing that of the controversial Soviet coach, Valeri Nepomniachi.

Milla, who played for so many years in France with the likes of Montpellier and Saint-Etienne, and has now left the Isle of Reunion for Austria, brilliantly won the match against Colombia in Naples and gave England desperate problems there a few days later, having previously scored those two powerfully taken goals against Romania. But all that means little to Omam-Biyik.

He said: "Yes, Roger proved he was a great player, despite his age. But you must not forget how well he was supported, how well served. We did the best we could to see he was not starved of the ball.

Future

"Some of us didn't agree that he should go to Italy. I didn't agree, because we had played the eliminators without him, and we had to prepare for the future. But he was imposed on us, and we accepted him. I stick to my guns: I didn't agree with it.

"He played well, he saved us in difficult moments, and we can only thank him. But I didn't agree with his selection and I still don't."

So if the World Cup began again next week, Francois was asked, would he be against Milla? "Yes, I think so," was the reply. "Even if he wanted to play till 50 he isn't the same Roger as, say, ten years ago.

"In Italy, if he hadn't had players around him who did an enormous amount of work, he couldn't have done what he did. We others sacrificed ourselves to give him a service. True, he gave us one too, but I still wanted to emphasise the role that his entourage played in his performance.

"And I repeat, if we had to begin again, I'd choose the workers, the people who could last 120 minutes.

"If Roger had begun the matches, we would never have got to the quarter-finals. He has a different mentality from the others. He likes to chat, and that distracts you. If he had to play again for the national team I think he would retain the role of joker, he would come in during the game to help us keep the ball.

"In Italy, he often found himself up against defences who were physically spent, and he profited from that by exploding.

"When he came on, my role changed completely. I dropped back a bit and I went looking deep for the ball, to serve Roger. I became a sort of playmaker. Okay, when he wasn't there and I played up, there was nobody in midfield to give the ball quickly. That's why I don't think Roger would have played in Italy if we had had a good midfield."

The key match, says Francois, was the warm-up game in Split, against Hajduk. Cameroon ran like mad, but got nowhere. He had to play midfield, hated it, and said that if he was obliged to stay there, he would drop out. It was then that Joseph Bell – the keeper who was replaced by N'Kono after criticising tactics in Italy – took over and re-planned the team's strategy.

Omam-Biyik gives little or no credit to Nepomniachi. It would be hard, he says, to pin down just what he did, if anything. The team played pure African football.

Little contact

Bell, by the way, went back to France after his disappointments to resume his place in goal with Bordeaux. Nepomniachi didn't speak French so had little contact with the Cameroon players.

"What Jo did for the team was extraordinary," says Omam-Biyik. "We got to the quarter-finals thanks to him. Bell is a gentleman. He remains an example to follow."

Omam-Biyik does not deny that Cameroon put it about. They had to, he said, because they were technically inferior to other teams. Read that as refreshing honesty or sheer cynicism, as you please.

Why did he choose to join an unambitious club such as Rennes? Because, he says, he wanted to go to the World Cup with his mind at rest. He had offers from Porto of Portugal and Nantes, but does not regret that he didn't wait till the end of the World Cup. He knows himself well, he says. "My spirit would not have been at ease."

The other Omam-Biyik, brother of Francois, was dropped by Third Division Metz last season. Now Le Havre have taken him on loan, but Metz see him as part of the squad.

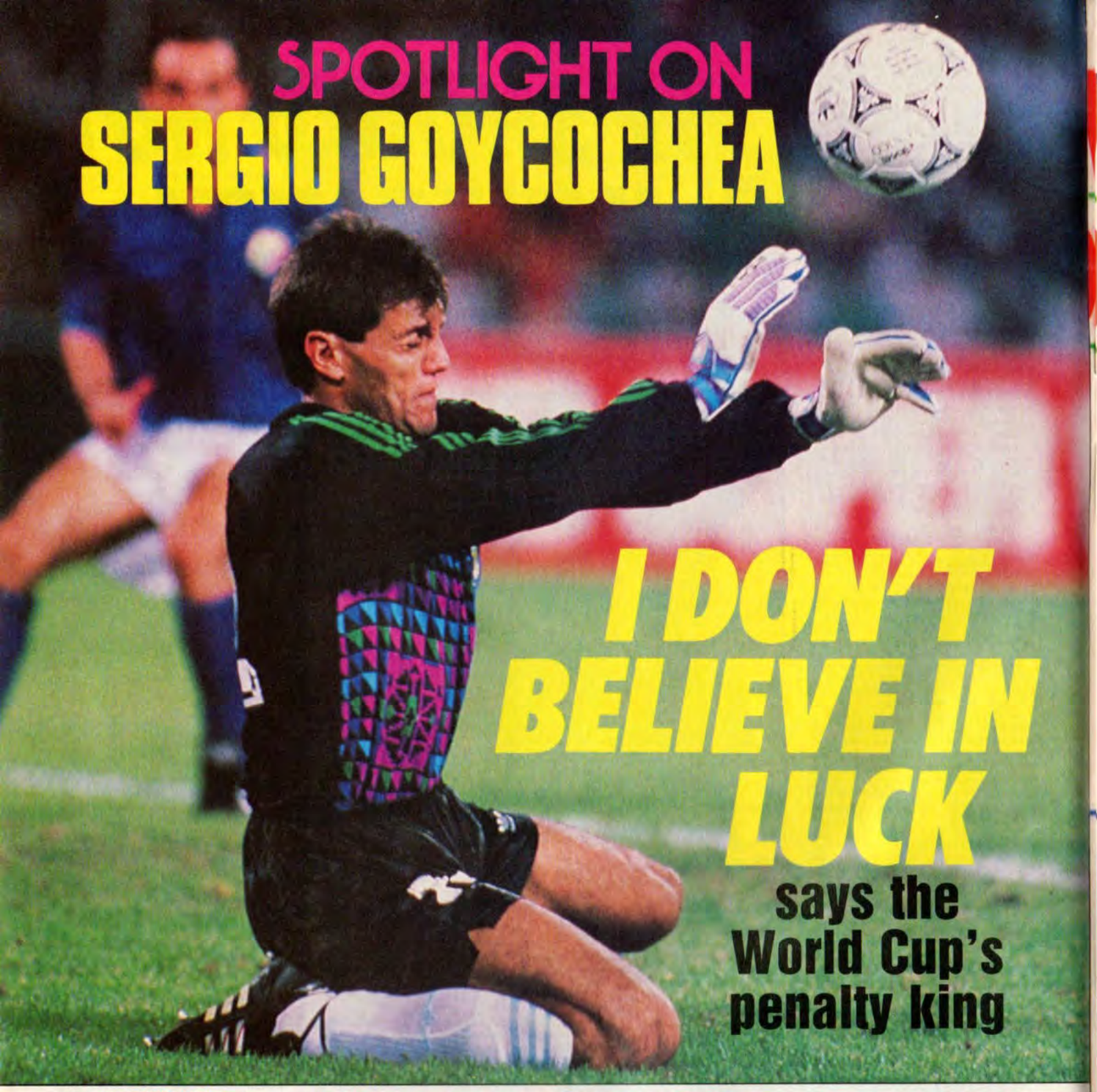
M'Fede, a success in midfield in Italy, was given the bullet by Rennes, when they were going through a financial crisis, and went home to Yaounde. "Cameroon players need to be loved," says Bell.

Cyrille Makanaky, the attacker who had a good World Cup, has now left France. Toulon dropped him after he had gone home to play in the World Cup qualifiers, and he had only three First Division matches last season. Then came Italy and the World Cup Finals. Now he plays in Spain with Malaga.

Roger Milla became a legend in Italy.

Oman-Biyik is also critical of his World Cup boss.

Cyrille Makanaky impressed in Italia '90 and now plays in Spain for Malaga.



SPOTLIGHT ON SERGIO GOYCOCHEA

I DON'T BELIEVE IN LUCK

says the World Cup's penalty king

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

ONE MAN'S fall brings another man fame.

If you have any doubts cast your mind back to the Stadio San Paolo in Naples on June 13 – an inauspiciously wicked date in the career of Argentina goalkeeper Nery Pumpido.

Argentina against the Soviet Union. Both nations had lost their first match in the World Cup finals: Argentina to Cameroon, the Soviets to Romania.

Now it was double or quits.

Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo had rebuilt his midfield and defence by recalling 1986 World Cup-winner Julio Olarticoechea. The change would work well for the team in general but it also produced a wholly unpredictable effect on the tournament as well as on the career of the Argentine reserve goalkeeper, Sergio Javier Goycochea.

Later Goycochea told me: "I cannot thank Bilardo enough for his faith in me."

Yet, if the truth were known, even Bilardo had his doubts. Some of those closest to the Argentine camp knew that Bilardo had thought long and hard about maintaining Pumpido in goal for the match against the Soviets. He had been a World Cup-winner in Mexico but he had been disastrously at fault with Omam Biyik's sensational match-winner for Cameroon on the opening day of Italia '90.

Bilardo's problem was not so much Pumpido, but the available cover. Fabian Cancelarich was untested in the World Cup cauldron; as for Goycochea, he was considered the No 2 out of age and experience but he had not played a 'real' match for more than five months because of a multiplicity of problems in Colombia where he had been under contract to Millonarios of Bogota.

So Pumpido started the game against the Soviets. Started ... but did not finish.

After 12 minutes of Soviet pressure Pumpido was found writhing in pain in the goal area after Argentina had very nearly conceded a scrambling own goal. Replays showed clearly the irony of poor Pumpido's World Cup exit: in the confusion of defence Olarticoechea had trodden on his right shin.

No-one was in any doubt as Pumpido was gingerly carried to the waiting ambulance and Argentine officials scrambled to accompany him to hospital. His World Cup was over; the legend of Sergio Goycochea was about to begin.

Goycochea loped from the touchline. Bilardo walked the first steps with him. Then the goalkeeper was out on the pitch, on his own, slapping his gloves together as if he could not quite believe what was happening. He might have been beaten almost at once. Dobrovolski swung over a corner from the left, Oleg Kuznetsov ducked his head into the flight of the ball and deflected it towards the inside of the near post. Goycochea was in the middle of his goal; he would never have reached it. But another arm did; that of Diego Maradona. The ball was arrested in its flight; Swedish referee Erik Fredriksson looked on benevolently and Argentina had survived.

The Soviets' best plan of action would have been to bombard the new, rusty goalkeeper. But, partly through their own failings partly thanks to some highly professional covering and chasing by Argentina, they never did. Thus Goycochea had adjusted to the lights, to the pace and to the tension before he was tested for the first time by Sasha Zavarov after 37 minutes.

Three more minutes and he was tipping a Vladimir Besonov drive for a corner.

In the second half there was a fumbled save from a 25-yard drive by Kuznetsov but that was just about the lot. And, in the aftermath, most of the headline fuss centred on Maradona's latest Hand of God escapade.

Goycochea had done his job, Argentina were back on course and, whatever happened to them, Goycochea would be a part of it. Just what a part he would play no-one could have guessed.

That's the unpredictable beauty of football, even at the highest level. Goycochea was not entirely unknown, of course. Born on October 17, 1963 in the town of Lima, about 65 miles from Buenos Aires, he had made a modest name for himself in the Argentine second division with Defensores Unidos.

Then he was picked up – the answer to a boy's dream – by River Plate. The Buenos Aires giants had a tradition of superstar goalkeepers, so to be given the chance to follow them was no small accolade.

Slipping

Ubaldo Fillol, Argentina's Cup-winning keeper in 1978, played for River Plate; so did Pumpido, before his post-Mexico transfer to Betis of Spain. But Goycochea's career had taken an unexpected twist. Goycochea and River Plate fell out. Suddenly Goycochea found himself training alone in the parks of exclusive Palermo wondering why nobody wanted him, wondering if his career was over before it had really begun.

Finally River, looking to raise some cash, had sold him to Millonarios. Colombian clubs paid the highest wages in South America. No-one asked where the money came from. But then, not all the players benefited. Goycochea found he was slipping through the net at Millonarios. Angry at being refused a pay rise he threatened a one-man strike.

The Colombian league went on without him. But not for longer. First one referee was kidnapped then another was shot dead by members of a drugs-money/match-fixing ring.

On the orders of the federation, the league was halted last October. Goycochea was stranded. Not only had Millonarios refused his demands for a pay rise but the club had suddenly been stripped of any opportunity for compromise. No matches meant no income; Goycochea knew he would have to look elsewhere.

This was just about the time when Bilardo was planning his World Cup campaign. He wanted Pumpido as No 1 keeper and Luis Islas as No 2. Goycochea, steady and experienced, would be an ideal No 3. And, after all, the chances of his being needed to play were plainly infinitesimal. Selecting a rusty keeper was no risk.

Then Islas, hot-tempered and self-confident, demanded that he be considered the No 1. Bilardo refused. Islas replied that, in that case, he had no wish to play second fiddle. He had done that in Mexico in 1986 and once was enough.

Too late to do anything about it, Argentina found themselves going to the World Cup with Goycochea as first reserve.

He was not a national team novice. Back in 1987 it was Goycochea who kept goal for Argentina in Zurich, in the formal friendly against Italy which signalled the start of the 1990 World Cup effort. Argentina lost 3-1 and left Goycochea with a nightmare.

Next time out, Goycochea was beaten twice by Mexico in the Los Angeles Coliseum. After that he was dropped. Pumpido returned. Goycochea went back to the club world until that happy day when Bilardo came to his rescue.

Goycochea's World Cup performance was his way of expressing his thanks to Argentina's manager. In the next match, a 1-1 draw with Romania, he produced sharp saves from Marius Lacatus, Gheorghe Hagi and Gavrila Balint. The prize was a place in the second round and a flight up to Turin to face Brazil.

To be fair to Brazil, Goycochea knew little about the first five minutes. He owned up to one important, totally instinctive, save from Careca. But much of the rest of the action went on around him but beyond his reach as Brazil's frantic attacking produced precisely nothing.

Seven minutes into the second half Goycochea tipped a Careca cross-shot against a post. That was, perhaps, the turning point. The Brazilian storm began to blow itself out and Claudio Caniggia, on the break, snatched the decisive goal which earned a Florentine quarter-final against Yugoslavia.

Now, oddly, Goycochea was back in the spotlight. Four minutes from the end of the victory over Brazil he had been shown the yellow card for time-wasting. Suddenly he was one match from suspension. Yugoslavia would surely test his patience...

That baking hot afternoon in Florence saw a game of physical chess, the tension and the pressure increased by the 31st-minute expulsion of Yugoslavia's Refik Sabanadzovic.

Goal action was rare. Goycochea's one moment of serious action in all the 120 minutes was just before the half-time whistle. Safet Susic curled over a corner, Dragan Stojkovic knocked it back and Davor Jozic's header forced Goycochea to a diving save.

Saving

But it was what happened at the end of extra time which set Goycochea's name on the world's lips. The Slavs were under immediate pressure when Stojkovic, the dead-ball expert, rapped their first penalty against the bar. Prosinecki converted their second and Savicevic their third. Then, with the score at 2-2, Farukh Hadzibegic walked up ... only to be called back by referee Rothliesberger. It seemed the Slavs had got their order in a muddle. Brnovic, instead, had been listed for the fourth kick and was duly sent up to take it.

Goycochea saved; Gustavo Dezotti scored for Argentina; and Hadzibegic returned for the vital kick, with Yugoslavia 3-2 behind.

Goycochea says now: "This was always going to be the most difficult of the penalties. Fortunately, Gabriel Calderon came to my aid. He knew Hadzibegic from playing against him in France. He said Hadzibegic would probably shoot to my left. That's what happened. I feinted to dive right then threw myself back to the left. He hit the ball well but not so powerfully.

"I can't really remember what happened after that. It's all a blur. I just started running like a madman. I can remember Diego (Maradona) shouting: 'You're a genius, a genius.' Then it was as if the world fell in."

Goycochea was to repeat his feat next time out, under even greater pressure on an even greater occasion: the semi-final against Italy back in the Naples stadium where his World Cup had first exploded to life.

At the end of extra time it was 1-1, with Goycochea in credit for fine saves from Luigi De Agostini and Roberto Baggio.

The penalties went in methodically: Baresi, Serrizuela, Baggio, Burruchaga, De Agostini, Olarticoechea. Then up stepped Roberto Donadoni. Goycochea dived left, and saved. Maradona, who had missed against Yugoslavia, made no mistake this time and when Goycochea saved again – this time to his left again from Serena – Argentina owed him their place in the Final.

Looking back, Goycochea says: "People started suggesting that I had studied every player's penalty technique. That's all wrong. I didn't do any homework at all. But, of course, against Italy I had a very special spy in Maradona.

"On a penalty the goalkeeper has nothing to lose and everything to gain. If he saves he's a hero. If the opponent scores, then he's only doing his duty. If all five shots go past you it's no big deal.

"So, I didn't have any problem with nerves. That's why, before the shoot-out with Yugoslavia I was able to walk round the rest of the team and tell them: Don't worry boys, I'll save at least two of them. I wanted to calm them down, reassure them, to help them with their own penalties, try to ease the pressure they were feeling.

"Saving penalties has very little to do with luck, more to do with intuition. A goalkeeper can do one of three things: dive left, dive right or stay in place. Often you look into the eyes of the penalty-taker to try to find a clue. That's what I do."

It was the ultimate irony that Argentina, owing so much to their goalkeeper's penalty heroics, should lose the Final on a penalty. Even then, Goycochea was very, very close to the Andy Brehme spot-kick which won the World Cup for West Germany.

On returning home he found himself almost as popular as Maradona. Argentina went wild for Goycochea in a manner which eclipsed even the adulation granted to old goalkeeping heroes such as Amadeo Carrizo and Hugo Orlando Gatti.

Now, he says, he hopes to play in Italy or even, the greatest irony, in West Germany.

During the World Cup there was a suggestion that Logrones were interested in Goycochea. In the end they settled for Romania's Silviu Lung. Thus Goycochea has been virtually back out of work since the World Cup.

He's had time to enjoy with his family; time to consider a string of lucrative promotional offers. Time is on his side. After all, Goycochea is still only 27. When the next World Cup finals come around he will be 30, at the peak of his powers.

There's a thought to unnerve the game's spotkick experts: the World Cup penalty king has time on his side.

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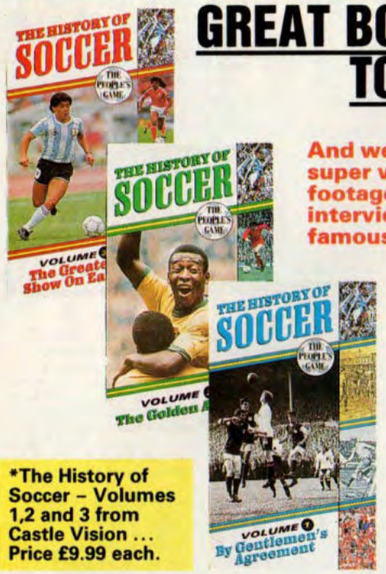

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QUESTIONS

1. Ricardo Zamora was one of the stars of the 1934 World Cup Finals. Which country did this great goalkeeper play for?
2. In which country was the 1962 World Cup Finals held?
3. In the 1986 World Cup Finals, the holders Italy were eliminated when they lost 2-0 to which country in the Second Round?

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3. Czechoslovakia 'keeper Ludek Miklosko is currently playing in the Barclays League for which club?

All the usual WORLD SOCCER competition rules apply. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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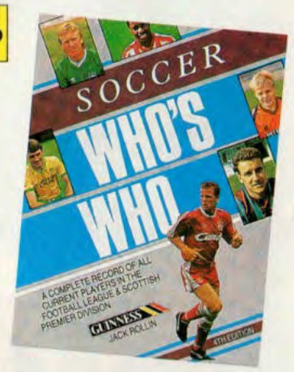
A comphrensive A-Z guide to all the players in the Barclays League and Premier Division in Scotland from the start of this season.



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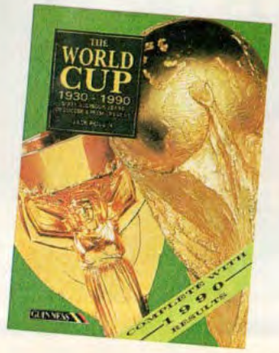


The World Cup 1930-1990

An authoritative account of the history of the World Cup ... including all the results from Italia 90.

"Diego" Buchwald clashes with the other Diego – Maradona – in West Germany's World Cup victory.

NOT SO GOOD FOR GUIDO

Big boy Buchwald aches for a move

HE was the tallest member of the West German World Cup squad and, according to manager Franz Beckenbauer, the biggest star of the tournament.

For Guido Buchwald this is high praise indeed, for he was so long the nearly man, the player some thought to be unworthy of his place as a tight-marking central defender.

But the 6ft 2in Buchwald surprised them all with his controlled football, concentration, vision and newly acquired ability to launch into attack from the deep, creating confusion in the opposing ranks.

With any luck he might have even scored a goal or two in Italy. His greatest assets are superb tackling and strength in the air plus experience.

The World Cup triumph was the greatest moment of Buchwald's career, but he is not happy. He wanted to join an Italian club and all seemed set until Stuttgart's management stopped him, despite earlier assurances that he would be released.

Trained

Guido Buchwald was born on January 24, 1961, in Berlin. As is usual among school-leavers in West Germany, he trained early for a trade and became a qualified electrical fitter before turning to football. His first clubs were the amateurs SV Wannweil and TSV Pliezhausen.

In 1978, at 17, he joined Stuttgarter Kickers. Five years later he was engaged by Stuttgart, where he is now the club captain.

He celebrated his debut in the national side on May 22, 1984, in a 1-0 win over Italy and now has 40 full caps, plus one in the Under-21 side and nine in the Olympic XI. He has played 205 Bundesliga matches for Stuttgart, scoring 17 goals.

But he wasn't always an outstanding footballer and often was criticised for being stiff in the hips, awkward and clumsy. Before the 1986 World Cup he was axed from the national squad at short notice, and controversy shrouded his selection for the European championship finals in 1988.

Although Buchwald eventually was preferred to Uli Borowka, a groin injury in the second group match put him out of the tournament.

But in Italy it was third time lucky. In most of the seven games he produced world-class performances. He also demonstrated that he had the confidence to go forward when the occasion demanded.

These sorties earned him the nickname "Diego". And the greatest glory came in the final, when he faced and stopped the great Diego Maradona.

In Stuttgart 8,000 fans gathered in the market place and greeted their hero. Now he feels the effects of success, the adulation and immense popularity. The postman in his home village of Walddorf, near Tubingen, is groaning under the weight of letters, cards and parcels. The demands for autographs have reached several hundreds a week.

But Buchwald's dream of going to play in Italy remains unfulfilled. He envies his former club colleague and national team mate Jurgen Klinsmann of Inter Milan, and says: "He has been telling me what a marvellous life he is enjoying there.

"In every match one can be measured against world-class opposition. I did so want to try something new in football."

Newly-promoted AS Parma approached him and Buchwald claims: "I had already agreed terms for a three-year contract." He would have earned £267,000 a year, net. At Stuttgart he gets £120,000, gross.

No go ... Stuttgart general manager Dieter Hoeness vetoed Buchwald's move to Italy.

"The Italians were prepared to pay up to £2 million for me" he says. "I phoned the club president, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, and he said there would be no obstacles put in my way. I was on cloud nine."

But a few days later he was shattered when general manager Dieter Hoeness insisted: "Contracts are made to be fulfilled. Under £3.3 million we would not discuss a move."

Strained

Since that episode, relations between the player and management have been strained. On the other hand, Buchwald did sign a four-year agreement last season. There is a clause – he can leave up to 30 April each year, for £1.3 million. Otherwise he must negotiate a special release with the club.

That is why Buchwald is bitter, saying: "£2 million for a 29-year-old defender is a lot of money. Stuttgart should take it. Karl-Heinz Forster was allowed to go four years ago, to Marseille, for just £1.2 million. I've been at Stuttgart since 1983, and everybody should understand that I want to move on."

Last year Buchwald had offers from Bayer Leverkusen, Cologne and Montpellier. "Everywhere I would have earned at least £17,000 more," he says ruefully.

Now, he must stay put, with his wife Sylvia and three-year-old son Yannic, at least until the spring, to find a way out. But until then, being a model professional, he promises to continue to given 100 per cent in Stuttgart's service.

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

SWANSONG

Rijkaard decision raises new questions

BY MIKE SCOTT

As well as sitting out a four-match ban following his sending off last April when playing for Milan against Verona, Rijkaard had injured a knee ligament during summer training that will keep him out until at least mid-October.

On top of that, the player who shocked his nation in August by quitting the Dutch international side was openly talking of doing the same to his club, who had paid £2.5 million to Sporting Lisbon three seasons ago to salvage a career that was going nowhere.

Then, after a troubled 1987-8 season, and having played only a handful of games, Rijkaard was worried about not making the Dutch squad for the impending European Championships. His fears were unfounded, however, and he went to West Germany, played all five games, and helped Holland to the title.

Now, Holland's campaign to retain it, starting this autumn against Portugal, will not concern the Black Swan, as Rijkaard is known in Italy. He announced his 'resignation' from international football on Dutch TV this summer.

This followed the side's disappointing World Cup showing – three draws and a defeat – and his own ignominious exit from the competition, sent off after spitting at West Germany's Rudi Voller in the second round on his home ground, San Siro, Milan.

Rijkaard's resulting £3,000 fine has been paid, though his three-match ban has now been rendered meaningless.

And the Dutch FA were left wondering whether to continue their search for friendly dates – to add to the September 26 game with Italy in Palermo – to absorb the FIFA ban.

Rijkaard said: "The national side is in crisis and I must confess that the experience of the World Cup in Italy has totally demotivated me.

"I don't want to play with this Holland side any more. My decision is final. I am not a man who goes back on his word."

Rijkaard, whose power and athleticism at the back had been the key to Holland's success in West

Berlusconi (above) has a new contract in mind for Rikjaard (left), but Van Basten (far right) and Gullit (below) are still way ahead of his earnings.

FRANK RIJKAARD was one of the saddest sportsmen in Italy as the new season got under way.

Dutchman Rijkaard, the 28-year-old midfielder-cum-defender, rarely smiles, even at the best of times. And this wasn't one of them.

Germany, was bowing out after 46 caps. As well as his sending-off, the team's pre-tournament shambles over the selection of a successor to the ousted Thys Libregts, and the imposed takeover of Leo Beenhakker instead of the popular choice, Johan Cruyff, also contributed to the decision.

But Milan were just as worried by the news that a renewal of his contract, which expires next June, will be no formality. In the week following his international bombshell, Rijkaard announced: "Milan is the strongest club side in the world. But here we are obliged to win, which asks many sacrifices of the players and creates enormous stress.

"Football is a component of my life, but it is not my whole life. So I don't know if I will stay at Milan next year."

Club president Silvio Berlusconi already has an £800,000, two-year contract in mind – which is an improvement on the player's present £300,000 a year salary but would still leave him far behind Dutch team-mates Marco Van Basten and Ruud Gullit, who both signed £3 million contracts recently that tie them to Milan until June 1993.

Berlusconi, though, is looking for at least an informal acceptance from Rijkaard by the end of October. And while his importance to Milan was underlined by his excellently-taken winning goal in last May's Champions' Cup final against Benfica, Rijkaard is said to want at least a £1 million deal, and he is hardly 'untouchable'.

Indeed, his disgraceful display in front of thousands of Milan fans in the World Cup led to a strongly-worded letter from his president, counter-signed by team coach Arrigo Sacchi, pointing out that such behaviour was not acceptable if he wanted to continue wearing the red and black jersey.

Berlusconi is said to have made contingency plans should Rijkaard decide not to re-sign ... in the shape of Fiorentina's Carlos Dunga of Brazil.

He has been a Berlusconi favourite for some time and now that his close friend, film-maker Mario Cecchi Gori is in charge of the club, such a deal would be fairly straightforward.

But anyone who knows the quiet, unassuming Rijkaard knows that pressure on the field is nothing compared with the stress he feels from family problems and media demands.

Soon after his arrival at Milan in 1988 he said: "I'm not a great talker and I don't like a lot of contact with people. I prefer to stay at home with my wife and daughter rather than go to parties. I can understand the great enthusiasm for the good life which Ruud Gullit enjoys, but he is made that way. I'm not."

Returned

So it seems no coincidence that as Rijkaard's marriage started to show signs of cracking towards the end of last year, so did his discipline on the field. Last February, in Milan's first-leg Italian Cup final against Juventus in Turin, Rijkaard received a red card for a foul – his first sending off in a 12-year professional career and after over 300 first-class games.

Two months later, and after his wife had returned to Holland with their daughter, he was ordered off for dissent. And two months later the pressures of Holland's locker-room politics – and racist taunts from the German supporters – led to a third and decisive expulsion.

The Black Swan is no stranger to troubled times. Three years ago he had just started his eighth season in Ajax's first team. Cruyff's return to the Amsterdam club in 1985 helped transform Rijkaard from a good player to an outstanding one by moving him to sweeper in front of the defence and giving him the captaincy.

He rose to the occasion, scored nine League goals and established himself in the Dutch side following a remarkable performance against Hungary in a World Cup qualifier.

In the following season, however, the captain's armband went to another up-and-coming talent, Marco Van Basten, and things began to turn sour, and when in the following summer the club persuaded Rijkaard to extend his contract by two years – which would have kept him at Ajax until June 1989 – officials discovered that he had already signed another deal with arch-rivals PSV Eindhoven 14 months earlier!

While things were smoothed over, with a court ruling that any future transfer fees be shared by both clubs, Cruyff and Rijkaard never saw eye to eye. Then, in September 1987, the manager accused his player of slackness during a game with Den Haag, and Rijkaard stormed out, never to kick a ball for Ajax again.

For the next four months he trained alone and waited for clubs to move for him.

Marseille and Milan were interested but when Sporting Lisbon made a firm offer in February 1988 he signed ... only to find that he had missed the Portuguese deadline for overseas players, so he had to spend the rest of the season in Spain on loan to Real Zaragoza.

In May that year Milan, champions of Italy, made a successful bid for the Dutchman's much-blotched contract, to team him with ex-Ajax colleague Van Basten and old childhood friend Gullit, who had arrived in Italy the previous summer.

"It feels like I've signed more contracts than autographs!" said a relieved Rijkaard on completing the deal.

It was a dream come true. He and Gullit had grown up together in Amsterdam. Their fathers both from the Dutch West Indies (now Surinam), were good friends, and both boys were born in September 1962 – Ruud on the first and Frank on the 30th. They had always talked of playing for the same club.

Ironically, both made their Dutch debut in the 2-1 defeat by Switzerland in Zurich in 1981 – with Gullit substituting for his pal at half-time.

At Milan, Gullit's troublesome knee injury has so far restricted them to little more than 20 games together with two seasons, although they have both managed to collect a pair of medals for winning the Champions' Cup. The double act has still to fulfil its promise at club level. And we may never again see the pair in the orange jersey of Holland.

Gullit said of his friend's decision to quit the international scene: "I rate Frank as one of the best players in the world and it will be a great loss to his country if he doesn't play again – especially during this difficult period. Obviously he has the right to run his own life, but I hope strongly that he re-thinks."

Many players would be happy with 46 caps, a European Championship medal, three Dutch titles, three Dutch Cups a Cup-winners' Cup with Ajax, two Champions' Cups and a Supercup with Milan.

But these do not seem enough for a man of Rijkaard's talent.

Unlike Gullit, who has the sort of personality to overcome the mental pressures of his injury, Rijkaard could find self-doubt creeping in if his problem leads to a prolonged absence. In his first two seasons at San Siro he played over 70 games, missing only six through injury – a tribute to his strength and consistency.

NEW STAR IN ★ THE ★ LAUDRUP DYNASTY

BY NICK BIDWELL

Brian Laudrup.

ONE GAME remained to decide who would be the lucky winner of Europe's World Cup qualifying Group One.

Sparkling victories in Bulgaria and at home to Greece and Romania meant that the revamped young Danish side, including the precocious Brian Laudrup – younger brother of Barcelona's Michael, and Bayern Munich's £2 million summer buy from Bayer Uerdingen – looked set to be Italy-bound.

Few "experts" could see anything other than the Danes gleaning the point required to seal their second consecutive World Cup finals appearance as Romania and Denmark trooped on to the pitch on a sunlit afternoon in Bucharest. After all, a month previously a rampant Denmark had majestically swept aside dispirited opponents by an emphatic 3-0 scoreline that decidedly flattered the Romanians.

During that first tie a Copenhagen full house had marvelled at the sight of the young Laudrup flying down the flank as the overtly defensive Romanian game plan was put to the sword. Aston Villa's stopper, Kent Nielsen, had already opened the scoring when Brian Laudrup cut in from the left and drove splendidly past flailing goalkeeper Lung.

From that moment the Romanians were destined to experience an evening of undiluted frustration.

Michael Laudrup in action for Denmark against Romania in a World Cup qualifying tie.

When full-back Mircea Rednic was sent off, for the last of a series of fouls on Laudrup minor, the incident symbolised a match in which Emerich Jenei's players were always engaged in a futile chase.

The opening salvoes of the return fixture at the 23 August Stadium again seemed to emphasise an apparent gulf in class between the countries. After only seven minutes Brian Laudrup's imperious excursion past the defenders on the right preceded an accurate pull-back for Flemming Povlsen to put the visitors ahead.

Yet that moment of Scandinavian euphoria was to be short-lived. As their efforts against the Soviet Union and Argentina testified during Italia '90, the Romanians are by no means devoid of skill, verve and determination.

They doggedly clawed their way back into contention, while Denmark conceded territorial superiority, three goals... and eventual qualification.

Evaporated

For Brian Laudrup – one of the few Danes to do himself justice during that ill-fated 90 minutes – the chance to play in the World Cup finals at the tender age of 21 had evaporated, and with it the opportunity to enhance his growing reputation as an attacker of pace and guile.

"I was counting on making the World Cup," he says. "But in Romania we wasted every conceivable chance. We let them play to their strengths and allowed their midfield to run things – Romania is not just Hagi."

Laudrup was an instant hit with his new employers at Bayern Munich after their 4-1 German Super Cup triumph over Kaiserslautern at the start of this season, when he created three goals. And many people predict that Brian has even more ability than the tremendously talented but sometimes erratic Michael.

Such sentiments are shared by one Danish soccer journalist, former international Flemming Nielsen. "Brian has the same delicate touch on the ball as his brother and the penetrative force of Preben Elkjaer," he says.

"But unlike his father Finn – a former player – and Michael, whose technical gifts were both checked by inconsistency, Brian has a real professional mentality."

Brian Laudrup was born in February 1969 in Vienna, where his father was playing for Sportklub. Subsequently Laudrup senior and his family returned to Denmark, where Finn completed his career with Brondby in the Third Division and then graduated to club director during a decidedly satisfying period – the team rose to prominence in the Danish top flight and his sons took their initial footballing steps.

Exactly

While Michael left Brondby in 1983 for Lazio – loaned to the Roman club by Juventus – Brian's willowy wing play earned him a first-team debut, against Naestved in April 1987.

Mature performances with his club, the Danish Under 21 and Olympic teams meant that exactly a year later he joined Michael in the full national squad for a friendly versus Austria – in his birthplace. Denmark lost 1-0 thanks to an own goal from Klaus Berggreen, but for Brian the game was a memorable experience. He won his first cap when leaving the bench in the second half, to replace Jesper Olsen.

Coach Sepp Piontek, however, felt that the youngster was not quite ready for the big time, and omitted him from the squad to go to the 1988 European Championships in West Germany.

So he had to wait until February 1989 for another full appearance for his country, playing against Malta as replacement for the unavailable Michael. Subsequently he established himself as a regular with fine goalscoring displays in World Cup eliminators in Bulgaria and the 7-1 home thrashing of Greece.

Experience

Laudrup was voted Denmark's Player of the Year last term, and after helping Brondby to two League Championships, many of Europe's clubs were on his trail and a move abroad seemed inevitable. Father Finn, manager of both boys, then negotiated a record Danish transfer fee of £800,000 with Bayer Uerdingen of the Bundesliga.

"I plumped for Uerdingen for my first real professional experience because it's a small town and there will not be a lot of pressure from spectators or media," Laudrup explained at the time. "Here I'll be able to work at my game in peace. It's the perfect atmosphere for me to develop."

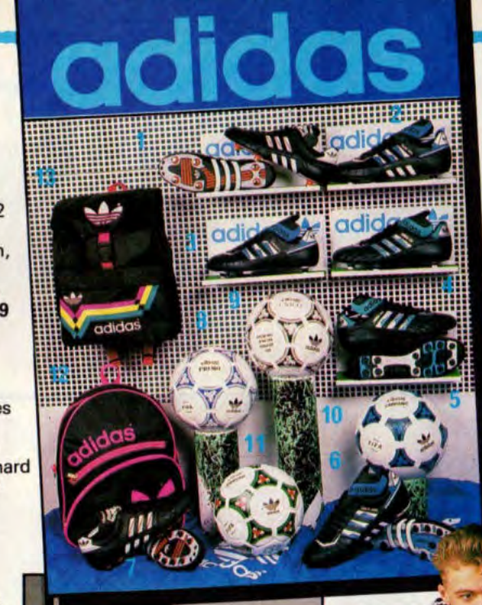
Yet although he signed for three years he was to stay for only one season before heading for Munich. Disappointing results and a final placing just four off the bottom made a move to more ambitious surroundings imperative.

"Brian is too good for this team," said Uerdingen coach Horst Wohlers – who very nearly succeeded Piontek as Denmark's boss last spring.

Certainly the new Danish supremo, Richard Moller-Nielsen, will be looking to the likes of Brian Laudrup to reinforce the generally favourable impression created when the Danes just fell short of a World Cup berth.

They are drawn with Yugoslavia, Austria, Northern Ireland and the Faroe Islands in the European Championship and have every chance of qualification.

The next episode of the Laudrup dynasty could well be set on nearby Swedish soil.



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Hagi needs to reorganise his game if he is to succeed at the Bernabeu.

CLUB FOCUS

REAL MADRID

HAGI HOLDS THE KEY

BY GRAHAM TURNER

The Italians were indirectly responsible for Hagi's signing. Real bought him as a midfield replacement for Rafael Martin Vazquez, the idol they were impotent to retain against the multi-million offer made by Torino. Real president Ramon Mendoza battled inch by inch to keep "Rafa" but emerged with the knowledge that not even mighty Real are now safe from the Italian big-game hunters.

The loss was a bitter blow. The 25-year-old midfielder had been a founder member of the "Vulture Brigade" – the platoon of homegrown stars (Butragueno, Sanchis and Michel are the others) who have formed the backbone of the Real side in recent years.

Martin Vazquez's departure knocked several rungs out of Real's ladder towards European glory, and the situation worsened with the injury to Luis Milla, the man poached from Barcelona to take over Schuster's role at the hub of Real's distribution network. He will be absent until March.

What's more, the "Vulture Brigade" now seem tired of carrying the weight of Real's European obsession on their shoulders, and their form has levelled off significantly below the individual peaks they achieved in 1986.

Real started the season by recording their 1,000th league win and amid rumours that Toshack would be sacked if the side suffered an early European Cup elimination like last year, when they were beaten by AC Milan in the second round.

GEORGE HAGI'S progress holds the key to Real Madrid's aspirations this season.

Nobody raises the slightest doubt about the sheer quality of Romanian midfielder Hagi, described by a Madrid radio commentator as "one huge slice of footballer" midway through his home debut in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. But the £1.7 million move from Steaua Bucharest to Real represents a major culture shock for the so-called Maradona of the Carpathians.

Hagi's linguistic limitations immediately made him an outsider at Real, where the other foreign acquisition, Yugoslav defender Predrag Spasic, was immediately trading banter with his new team-mates. And, language barriers apart, Hagi urgently needs to reprogramme his game if he is to establish himself as Real's European trump card.

At Steaua, the team played for Hagi in league campaigns which, more often than not, were something akin to military processions towards the opposing goal. At Real – as Bernd Schuster's summer dismissal confirmed – nobody enjoys such privileges.

Hagi has been hailed as a genius on the ball but selfish to the extent of warranting one to himself.

"Understand with his team-mates is something that will come," says Real coach John Toshack. "It's purely a question of time and playing games."

But the other major challenge for Hagi is a system that demands defensive work from the whole side – and this is where he must add another dimension to his soccer education.

Pressurised

Toshack doesn't oblige his attacking players to drop deep to provide defensive cover, but he does want them to pressurise opponents in their own half and deny them time and space to mount counter-attacks. And this is the area where Hagi is suspect.

The arrivals of Hagi and Spasic – brought in to replace Argentine World Cup defender Oscar Ruggeri, who lasted only one year in Madrid – also provide significant confirmation that even the top Spanish clubs are now unable to compete with the Italians for the Marco van Bastens of this world, and are being increasingly obliged to fish in Eastern European waters.

Toshack backs his new boy to restore greatness

Standing: from left, Chendo, Buyo, Gordillo, Hierro, Tendillo, Maqueda. Kneeling: from left, Michel, Butragueno, Sanchez, Sanchis, Hagi.

Hugo Sanchez equalled Zarra's record.

Michel in consistent form.

Predrag Spasic.

The packed trophy room.

Real's 25 league titles in 37 years (including five in the last five) have made domestic success such a routine affair that the fans are now screaming for the Champions' Cup, a quarter of a century after the last success. The obsession sums up the club's history.

For the public at large, that history is not about the Madrid Football Club founded in 1902 – Real was added after royal blessing by King Alfonso XIII in 1920. Nor is it about the team who, after the 10-club professional league had been founded in 1928, won only two league titles in 25 years. The history of Real Madrid really began when the Champions' Cup was born in the 1950s.

The legend was created by a few men. No 1 was Santiago Bernabeu, who signed as a player in 1909, was on the coaching staff when Real won those first two titles in 1932 and 1933, and became president in 1943.

He raised £350,000 and in 1947 inaugurated the stadium that bears his name. Six years later he found another £25,000 to win a controversial tug-of-war with Barcelona for the signing of Alfredo di Stefano. Then came the likes of Paco Gento, Enrique Mateos and Luis Del Sol. Ferenc Puskas on a free transfer from Hungary. Hector Rial from Argentina. Pepe Santamaria from Uruguay. Raymond Kopa from France ...

Suddenly, Real had a world-beating side and proved it by winning five consecutive European Cups and an Intercontinental Cup between 1955 and 1960. What's more, only the keenest of soccer buffs remember that the best record in European history was achieved under four coaches – Pepe Villalonga, Luis Carniglia, Fleitas Solich and Miguel Munoz.

The club's style was all about exceptional footballers, obsessed with scoring more goals than the opposition. That attitude was exemplified by an epic 7-3 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 final ... after the Germans twice put six past Glasgow Rangers in the semi.

Since then, the names have changed but the attacking vocation lives on. Last season, under Toshack, Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez equalled Zarra's individual scoring record of 38 goals, and Real

Butragueno so difficult to shake off the ball.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

REAL MADRID CONTINUED

The Coach

John TOSHACK. Aged 41 (born March 22, 1949). Former Cardiff City striker who joined Liverpool in 1970 and who, alongside Kevin Keegan, picked up three Leagues, one Cup, two UEFA Cups, a Supercup and a European Cup in eight years. As a coach he started by taking Swansea City from the 4th to the 1st Division in three years and gave them European football via a record fifth place. When things turned sour he emigrated to Sporting Lisbon in 1985 and, after finishing 2nd in the Portuguese league, headed for Spain to coach Real Sociedad. "J.B." (the Spanish media insist on reminding "Tosh" that his second name is Benjamin) steered the Basque side from dour defence to adventurous attack winning the 1987 Copa de Rey in the process. He was hired by Real – "the only club capable of prising me away from San Sebastian" – in 1989 to restore law and order in a squad which had become too big for its boots. His no-nonsense style has raised hackles, but Real scored a record 107 goals in winning their fifth consecutive league title last season.

THE PLAYERS

Francisco BUYO. Goalkeeper. Aged 32 (born January 13, 1958) with 6 caps. Was born in Vetanzos near La Coruna and made his name with local side Deportivo before heading south to join Sevilla. His agility and extraordinary reflexes earned him a £350,000 move to Real Madrid in 1986 where his impetuous style and excesses of amateur dramatics have made him a controversial character reviled by many opposing fans and whose 'unsporting' label probably cost him a place in the World Cup squad.

Pedro Luis JARO. Goalkeeper. Aged 27 (born February 22, 1963). Surprise £650,000 signing from relegated Malaga this summer to replace Agustin. Born in Madrid, Jaro started out with local third division side Moscardo before travelling to Andalusia and earning his spurs with Cadiz and then, in 1988, Malaga. Untried at the top, but highly-rated by his fellow pros.

Julian LOPETEGUI. Goalkeeper. Aged 24 (born August 28, 1966). In the great tradition of Basque goalkeepers, the athletic six-footer has good pair of hands. Left his home town of Asteasu to join Real's nursery side Castilla; joined the first-team squad in 1985; was loaned to Las Palmas for the 1988-89 season; and now provides stiff competition for Buyo and Jaro.

Miguel Porlan 'CHENDO'. Right back. Aged 29 (born October 12, 1961) with 27 caps. Speedy, skilful, strong in the tackle and fit enough to operate along the whole of the right flank, Chendo was brought up from Totana in Murcia to join Real's Youth Scheme as a 15-year-old and was so homesick he all but escaped back to the south after one week. Has now been a fixture in the first team for eight years and represented Spain in the Mexico and Italy World Cups wearing, of course, his 'lucky' knee-bandage.

Predrag SPASIC. Defender. Aged 25 (born May 13, 1965) with 22 caps for Yugoslavia. Surprise £1.1m signing this summer after Real had failed to buy Des Walker to replace Argentine defender Oscar Ruggeri. The blond six-footer's career took off when, after seven seasons, he left Radnicki Nis for Partizan Belgrade in 1988. A year later Osim gave him his international debut against Scotland and his excellent performances in the Yugoslav number 3 shirt in Italy earned him the move to Madrid.

Rafael GORDILLO. Left-back. Aged 33 (born February 24, 1957) with 75 caps. Toshack suspected that the long-legged, galloping left-footer might be over the hill, but 'Gordi' has proved him wrong to the extent that his exclusion from the World Cup squad was hotly debated. Born in Almendralejo near Badajoz, the flamenco-singing full-back made his fame and fortune with Real Betis before almost reluctantly leaving Seville to join Real in 1985.

Fernando Ruiz HIERRO. Defender. Aged 22 (born March 23, 1968) with one cap. An excellent first season with Real earned him a place in the World Cup squad, though he failed to progress beyond the subs' bench. Born in Velez, just up the coast from Malaga, he and brother Manolo made their names in Valladolid. Manolo was then signed by Barcelona in 1988 (and shunted on to Tenerife without playing a single game) while Fernando had to wait another year for his more successful to Real. The tall, frizzy-haired marker has matured rapidly under Toshack's guidance.

Manuel SANCHIS. Defender. Aged 25 (born May 23, 1965) with 34 caps. His Dad, also a Real player, scored Spain's winning goal against Switzerland in the 1966 World Cup and there was never any doubt that Manolo junior would follow in his footsteps. A very complete all-rounder, he was taken to Real as a 14-year-old, secured £10 a week when he signed his first pro contract as a member of the Youth Team, and scored the winning goal when he made his first team debut in the same match as Martin Vazquez against Murcia on December 4, 1983. Currently serving a five-match European ban for an uncharacteristically wild tackle on Marco van Basten.

Jesus SOLANA. Defender. Aged 25 (born December 25, 1964). A utility defender who worked his way through the Youth Scheme since joining Real at 16, and since his promotion to the first-team squad in 1986 has been confined to bit parts.

Miguel TENDILLO. Defender. Aged 29 (born February 1, 1961) with 27 caps. Tall, strong and surprisingly skilful, Tendillo has had a roller-coaster career. At 18 he made his debut for Valencia, won the Cup and skippered Spain in the World Youth Championships in Japan. In 1980 he won the Cup-winners' Cup, made his full international debut in Denmark and played in the European Championship finals in Italy. At 21 he had already won 21 caps. But his star began to wane; the Valencia fans began to jeer him; and when the side was relegated in 1986 he was farmed out to Murcia. After one confidence-boosting season he was snapped up by Real, but has never been an automatic first-team choice.

Juan Jose Sanchez MAQUEDA. Defender/midfielder. Aged 21 (born January 23, 1969). A Youth Scheme product who, as a utility all-rounder, has benefited from last season's first division experience while on loan to Logrones and is now a firm contender for the Real first team.

Francisco Javier VILLARROYA. Midfield/left-back. Aged 24 (born August 6, 1966) with 12 caps. A £12.5m summer signing as a medium-term replacement for Gordillo, Villarroya has made a meteoric rise to the top since making his first-team debut for Zaragoza against Celta in March 1988. The skilful left-footer who describes himself as "a mixture of architect and bricklayer" had worked his way through the Zaragoza Youth Scheme as an inside-forward, but made his international debut against Poland in September 1989 in a more retracted role – one which, nine months later he repeated during the World Cup.

Jose Miguel Gonzalez 'MICHEL'. Midfield. Aged 27 (born March 23, 1963) with 48 caps. Rejected by Atletico, he joined Real at 13 and was hailed as a genius from youth level onwards. But, with question marks over his commitment and temperament, he was 'frozen' for five years in nursery side Castilla before finally making the grade in 1984. The skilful, hard-shooting right-side midfielder has represented Spain in the last two World Cups (scoring four times in Italy) and was ranked fourth in Europe in 1987. But recently his game has levelled off and just over a year ago he asked for a transfer following "shabby treatment from Real fans who don't appreciate my work for the team". With a £700,000-per-year contract valid until 1996, his request was turned down.

Luis MILLA. Midfield. Aged 24 (born March 12, 1966) with two caps. After years of being labelled as frail, he shot to fame as the midfield pivot in Johan Cruyff's Barcelona side in 1988. But last Spring Cruyff turned against him when he refused to sign new terms, dropping him from the side and costing the cool, clever midfielder a World Cup place. Exasperated at his lack of prospects, Milla paid the £1.75m stipulated by the release clause in his contract to buy his own freedom, and promptly joined Real. After just 96 minutes of pre-season action, he suffered a serious knee ligament injury which will keep him out until March.

Gheorghe HAGI. Midfield. Aged 25 (born February 5, 1965) with 61 caps for Romania. The £1.7m summer signing from Steaua Bucharest is taking time to adapt to life at Real after three privileged years as the 'Maradona' of Romanian soccer. A superskilled solo performer and prolific goalscorer, Hagi is now light years away from his humble beginnings as a 17-year-old with Constanta. He emigrated to Bucharest in 1983 to join Sportul Studentesc and was 'absorbed' by Steaua in 1987 – firstly on loan and then as a permanent fixture. Footballer of the Year in 1985 and 1987, Hagi had long since been in the sights of top Italian clubs when Real made their move.

Antonio Joaquin PARRA. Midfield. Aged 29 (born June 17, 1961). An imaginative ball-playing midfielder who rose to fame with Betis in his native Seville before joining Atletico Madrid in 1987. In 1989 new coach Clemente decided he was surplus to requirements; gave him a free transfer and within 24 hours Parra had joined Real as a stop-gap midfielder.

Adolfo ALDANA. Midfield. Aged 24 (born January 5, 1966). The elegant, skilful inside-forward was only persuaded to stay "so as not to let the team down" after Milla and Llorente were injured. The Under-21 international had previously been fed up with the lack of first-team outings since promotion from Castilla in 1988.

Santiago ARAGON. Midfield. Aged 22 (born April 3, 1968). Promising product of the youth scheme who has benefited from spells on loan to Espanol and Logrones.

Hugo SANCHEZ. Striker. Aged 32 (born July 11th 1958) with 98 caps for Mexico. The statistics tell the story of one of the great finishers of our time. Yet during the 81-82 season, Atletico Madrid wanted to send him back to Universidad de Mexico. Hugo took a cut in wages to return to Madrid and prove his worth. He did so with 78 goals in four seasons before preferring Real to Barcelona in 1985. In League, Cup and Europe he has since celebrated with his famous somersault no fewer than 185 goals at an average of 36 per season. His 38 league goals last term equalled Sarra's Spanish record and earned him a European Golden Boot, shared with Barcelona's Bulgarian signing, Hristo Stoichkov.

Emilio BUTRAGUENO. Striker. Aged 27 (born July 22, 1963) with 54 caps. Was registered as season ticket holder no. 20610 a few hours after his birth, and was heartbroken when he failed a trial at 17. His dad insisted, and he joined nursery side Castilla in 1981. Made an explosive first team debut on February 5, 1984 when, coming on as sub with Real 2-1 down in Cadiz, he scored twice to clinch a 3-2 win. Was called into the 1984 European Championship squad, but didn't play and waited till October 1984 to make his international debut against Wales. Winner of the Bravo trophy in 1985-86, 'The Vulture' took off with five goals in the 1986 World Cup – four of them against Denmark. Third in the European rankings in 1986 and 1987, he has since gone off the boil and has recently been trying to play his way through a confidence crisis following harsh criticism of his performances in Italy.

Sebastian LOSADA. Striker. Aged 23 (born September 3, 1967). Joined Real as a 14-year-old and finally made the first-team squad on his return from a year's loan to Espanol in 1988, when he helped Clemente's side reach the UEFA Cup final. Son of a pilot, but his flying hours at Real have been restricted by the consistent striking of Hugo Sanchez.

Francisco LLORENTE. Striker. Aged 25 (born May 21, 1965) with one cap. Nephew of legendary Real winger Gento, and it shows. 'Paco' covers 100 metres in around 11 seconds and has exceptional ball skills to boot. Was rejected by Real at youth level and joined Atletico instead, making his league debut against Las Palmas in April 1986. In 1987 he controversially used a newly-passed Workers' Charter to buy his freedom for just £250,000 and join Real, where his progress has been hampered by the presence of Butragueno and, more recently, by an injury which will keep him out until December.

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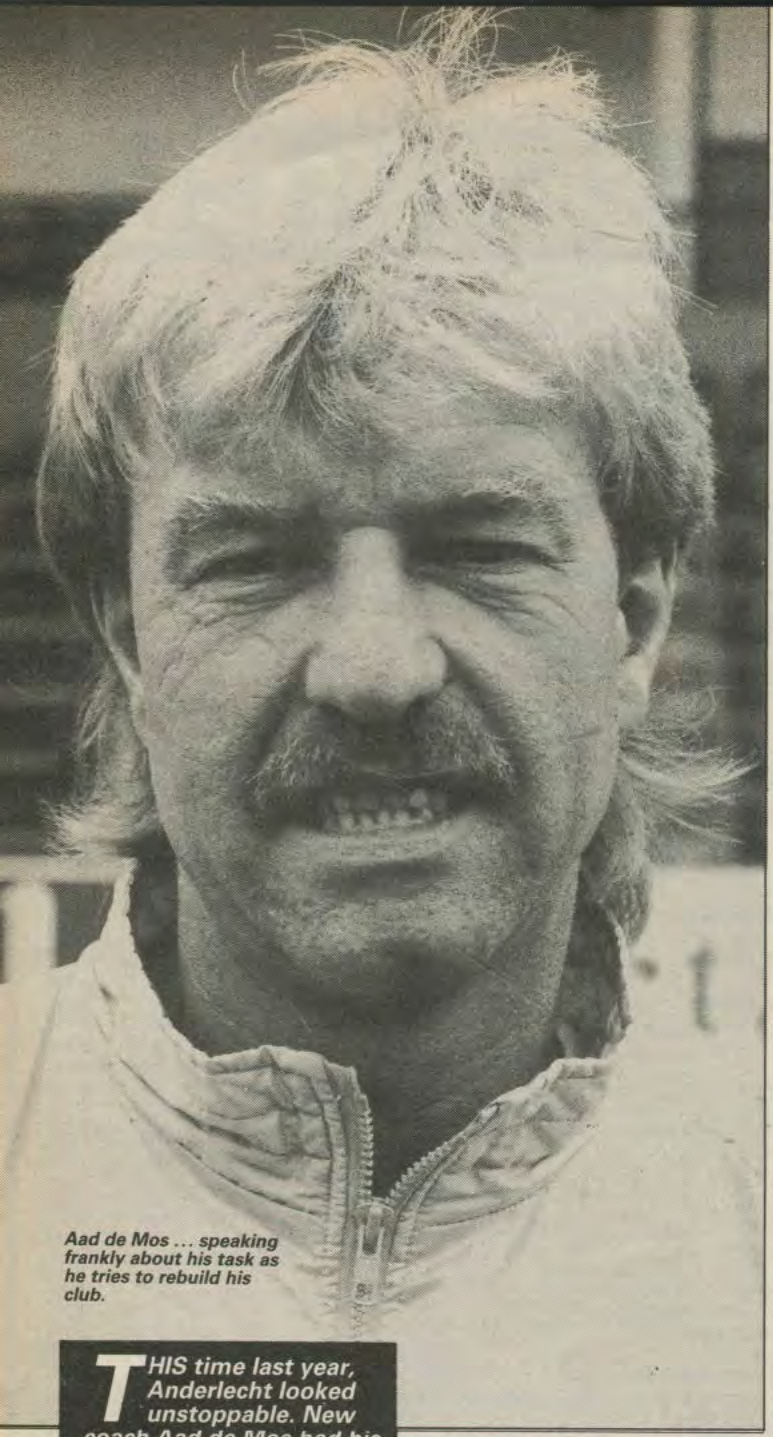
ALL CHANGE!

Anderlecht's new route back to the top



Aad de Mos ... speaking frankly about his task as he tries to rebuild his club.

THIS time last year, Anderlecht looked unstoppable. New coach Aad de Mos had his new striking partnership of Marc Degryse and Marc Van Der Linden firing on all cylinders, and the team were scoring prolifically.

By early November, Anderlecht were top of the table and had comprehensively outclassed Barcelona in the second round of the Cup-winners' Cup. Then, suddenly, the sweet-running engine started misfiring and when the club lost the Cup-winners' Cup final to Sampdoria, they had finished the season without winning anything.

Aad de Mos now faces a tough job in his second season to haul a completely refurbished Anderlecht back to the top. He gives his views to World Soccer.

OVERALL it was a difficult season. After the Barcelona tie we immediately lost two games because of over-confidence and then we had players going off to play in vital World Cup qualifiers, so their concentration was not 100 per cent on the league. Then we had seven players who were at the end of their contracts.

Some of them had been at the club for seven or eight years and wanted to leave because it would be their last chance of a big contract. So in December I sat down with the president and we decided to change the team, change the mentality and offer new contracts to the players I liked, such as Musonda, van Tiggelen, De Wilde and De Busschere.

We knew that Vervoort and Andersen wanted to go, so we needed two new left-sided Belgian players, and ended up signing De Wolf and van Baekel. Then we brought in two Dutchmen, defender Rutjes from Mechelen and striker van Loen from Roda. All in all we have made seven positional changes, so we need a little time for the side to readjust.

The worst thing is that players can spend almost half a season distracted by possible transfers. There are a lot of agents in Belgium and they talk to players about going to Germany, France or even Italy. Suddenly they've lost their concentration and are talking more about money than about football. So in the final months of the season you have players who are not working for the club – only for their own future.

What's more, some were playing very comfortably with one eye on the World Cup. Fortunately, the fans realised what was going on and were not happy with the players who were not putting their shoulders to the wheel.

This season they are looking for better results, and our top priority is to be champions. We are well on the way to having a well-balanced side. The three Dutchmen should shore up the defence pretty effectively. Rutjes and van Tiggelen are good markers and Kooiman does a good job as sweeper.

Opposing

Up front van Loen is an important asset because his strength and aerial power give us another dimension. Last season, opposing teams came to defend with nine or ten players in their own box and in home games Degryse and Van der Linden didn't have the physical punch to break them down.

One of the problems I need time to solve is that Van der Linden came back very depressed from the World Cup. He had been built up as one of the possible stars and ended up playing half a game against South Korea. When he came back he found he was going to have to fight with van Loen for a place in the attack.

He did extra work pre-season because he wasn't in peak condition and had problems with excess weight. I wanted to work on ideas for the three to operate together, but injuries have meant I haven't had time to train with all three of them together.

It's obvious that with so many changes we need a certain amount of time to rebuild, and we must hope that we can stay in touch at the top of the table while we are doing it.

Our main rivals will be basically the same, though Mechelen have lost strength in comparison with last season. They have sold Rutjes to us and Koeman and Bosman have gone to PSV. They've bought two Dutchmen and the Swede Ingesson –

Not so friendly ... Kooman clashes with Popescu of PSV in a pre-season match.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY GRAHAM TURNER

a very good player.

Bruges are still a very strong side. They don't play very attractive football, but they produce results and they have two very good strikers. For them, the important thing is always the result and they score a lot of their goals from set pieces.

We all do our homework, but they execute their set pieces so well that it's very difficult to defend against them.

I'm not planning to make drastic changes to Anderlecht's playing system and, to tell you the truth, the only positive note for me to come out of the World Cup was Colombia. I had never seen anybody adopt a tactical style like that.

They operated with a flat back four, like Brazil used to, and they played one-twos in the middle of the park with great ability. And when they lost the ball they were very well drilled and fought hard to regain possession. They were a good, balanced team, and a pleasure to watch.

Interesting

In normal circumstances they would have beaten West Germany in the game they drew 1-1, because they had an awful lot of chances.

I've been speaking a fair amount to Arrigo Sacchi about them. He has seen a lot of Maturana's work because Milan had to play Atletico Nacional in the Toyota Cup last December. There are some interesting concepts to bear in mind.

Yes, I agree that Holland were one of the negative aspects of the World Cup. At first I was surprised by their performances, but when I started hearing all the stories, I stopped being surprised. Some players...well, there was definitely no togetherness in the team.

People were just talking about I, me and myself all the time instead of talking about the team. Or complaining that the balls were no good or the playing surface was bad, instead of talking about the important things.

It was very difficult for the coach – and Leo Beenhakker is a very good coach – because in order to make a good team he needs co-operation from the players and at least a willingness to listen to his ideas rather than their own. Now, with an eye on the future, the answer must come from the players.

There are enough good players to make a good team if they are mentally prepared to think as a team. But that is not my immediate worry.

My job is to put Anderlecht back at the top in my second season, and I am determined to succeed.

Three key men ... Van Der Linden (top), Rutjes (above) and Van Tiggelen.

● *The Graham Rix Highbury testimonial (Arsenal v Tottenham) has now been set for Saturday, October 13 – the First Division's blank Saturday before England's European Championship tie against Poland.*

NOW FOR RIX

BY NICK HARLING

OF the score of British footballers who have joined the exodus to France in recent years, it is doubtful if any has created a better impression or made a bigger long-term impact on the local community than Graham Rix.

In a country where cycling and cyclists were thought to reign supreme, Rix enjoys all the trimmings of stardom. But, unlike some of his contemporaries, he gives plenty back, much more indeed, than the two goals he scored for Caen recently in their 2-0 win over Toulouse.

Rix was always something of an idol at Highbury but that was nothing the extent to which he is revered in the delightful medieval town, whose club have, somehow, over the past two seasons defied the odds to keep their hard-won place in the French first division. They have done so with the considerable assistance of Rix, the former Arsenal player, who is to eager to repay their faith that he thinks nothing of happily acknowledging the many car drivers who salute him as he drives through a town in which he cannot sit over a beer without being pestered endlessly for his autograph.

Invariably he consents and willingly, too.

"It's a small price to pay," he explains and then without a hint of arrogance: "They absolutely adore me, they love me."

Rix did not know quite what he had let himself in for after he had signed for Caen before he had even visited the town or discovered where it was, instead of Queen's Park Rangers and Sheffield Wednesday, the two English clubs who came in for him when George Graham gave him a free transfer.

He had wanted to play abroad it is true, but his first reaction on seeing the tiny Stade Malherbe, which has doubled up as a cycling velodrome in the past, was: "What have I done; what am I doing here?"

Salute

Rix considered his options. He could either see out his two-year contract and get out or make a go of it. Fortunately for Caen, he chose the latter. He is now so much a Francophile that in his newly appointed role as captain, it comes naturally for him to persuade his team-mates to salute the crowd (which is nearly always almost full to bursting) and thank them for their encouragement.

Although English papers are available, it is now to L'Equipe, the French sports daily that Rix first turns for the French results and their interminable statistics. His love for the club has made him more eager than most to preserve their first division status. With a 22,000 all-seater mini superstadium well past the planning stage, Rix knows that the price will be a heavy one if Caen go down.

"The pressure is worse than playing in a cup final," he says. "The last two years we've had to win our last game to stay up and the first year we managed that after losing our first six games. It was the worst start ever made by a team in the first division."

The crowd struck by the team so well that Rix still vividly remembers the occasion when 150 of them, euphoric on hearing of the first away point at Toulouse in mid-October, greeted the Caen team with champagne as it touched down at the small local airport in the early hours. The enthusiasm is infectious though Rix still goes about his way in a French which is well short of perfect.

Studied

It is good enough, all the same, to sustain a running argument with referees, such as the one who had the misfortune to come up against an argumentative Rix during the shock home win over Bordeaux.

His linguistic limitations make him regret following the advice of his father. "Son, don't worry about your French, just make sure you get your maths and English," Rix senior had said as his boy studied for his CSEs back home in the South Yorkshire village of Campsall, near Doncaster.

"French was always one of those lessons which I spent flicking elastic bands across the class room," Rix admits.

More through sheer enthusiasm and the universal language of football, Rix has made good of his shortcomings. As a well-paid employee, not of the club but of the Municipalite, according to the system in France, he reciprocates by spending one afternoon a month teaching the game he loves to the willing learners, among them his son, Robbie, aged six, at the Ecole de Foot in the village of Saint Sylvain where he lives with his wife Gill, and two other children.

Among the many aspects he found different about the French game,

Jesper Olsen

which starts in mid-summer, usually has a long mid-season break (though not this season) and kicks off at 8.30pm on a Saturday, were the curious post-match customs. Rix has since adjusted them to his own way of liking. After their first match, he and Brian Stein (who has since returned to England) were hauled out of the bar and ordered to lap the track while the crowd made its way out. It was Caen's way, win or lose, of easing the stiffness.

Now they come in on a Sunday morning instead and have Mondays off. Now, too, the president comes into the dressing room armed with a crate of beer after games.

"They're learning. We're getting there," Rix says, delighted at the manner in which he has made his influence felt.

Spartan

Pre-season training remains just as spartan, however, and it was an eye-opener for Rix when he first went with Caen to a camp in the South of France to be awakened by a knock on the door at 7am. 45 minutes jogging were followed by a two-hour session after breakfast and another two hours after lunch. "Do you know I am nearly 31," Rix protested.

Now 33 and with an extended contract for a further two years, Rix knows he can also extend his career by staying in France. "I would be considered old in England with a big question mark against my name," he says, "but here ..."

Just as revealing is the esteem with which Nos 10 like him are held in France. "They can do anything. The way they perform here they can play until they are 42," he says. "When they first saw me, they said 'you don't have to do all that tackling.' But it's me, it's my game."

One thing Caen are not learning from Rix, fortunately, is the long ball game, so common in England and to which Arsenal, of course, still adhere. Caen compromise, through Rix, by hitting "le grand ball" when the occasion demands but not every time they have possession. They are nonetheless more English in their hustling style than probably any other French team. With Jesper Olsen outside him, a replacement for the departed Brian Stein, Caen have two of the sweetest left feet in the French game.

It is little wonder that the team commands rather more respect than it did. "Some teams are frightened to death of us now," he says.

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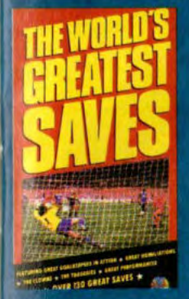

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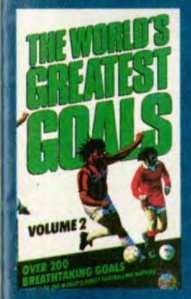

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Lucky Robson didn't betray England

The Brian Glanville COLUMN

BOBBY ROBSON is at PSV now, and though I have felt from the first that he was an awfully lucky man to get the job – ah, well; Colin Moynihan was promoted, too, was he not? – I wish him every success.

You cannot help but like the fellow. But how good an England manager was he, and how much did he really have to do with England's partial World Cup success?

I say partial, well aware of the fact that I may have the Great British Public, otherwise the Couch Potatoes, and various Tribunes of the People on my neck. For though the World Cup is fading now into a blessedly dim memory, I have been astonished to find, on my return from Italy, such strange aberrant beliefs in those who stayed behind – and viewed.

Not only they, of course. There was also the School of Clever Dickery, as particularly represented by the cricket correspondent of the Guardian who, transcending all limitations of knowledge and experience, clearly knew better than any of us; and especially those of us who toil in the vineyard of football journalism.

Clever Dick fired his first volley before he had even left these shores. What, he enquired, in a supercilious way, was all this fuss about the F.A. terminating Bobby Robson's contract, when everybody knew that such contracts ran from one World Cup to the next?

No, Clever Dick; they don't, and there's the rub. The F.A. being the bizarre body that they are, such contracts run till a year AFTER each World Cup, which meant that the F.A. was lopping a year off its duration.

Under such circumstances, I'd agree, it was most unfair of anyone to accuse Robson of betraying the cause, even though it as a pity he should at first have been so insistent that no approach had been made or discussed.

Another point should be clarified. Robson's Eulogist Extraordinary, a certain Mr. Neil Lyndon, is quite in order to excoriate all of us who doubted for an instant that he was anything less than the white hen who never laid a stray. But he should at least be fair, if that be the word, to the F.A.

Excoriated by him in their turn for treating the poor fellow so badly, they did, after all, Mr Lyndon, sturdily – stubbornly? – refuse to sack him after the fiasco of England's performance in the 1988 European Championship, despite ferocious pressure from the despised Press. Even an apologist should try to get his facts right.

Just before the present League season started, I met one of our leading coaches outside a football ground in London. I had said nothing of my views on England, Robson and the World Cup when he damned Robson's tactics up hill and down dale, deplored the fact that he had suddenly sprung a sweeper defence (of a kind) on the England team that played Holland, after eight years' resisting it; and insisted that had England, in fact, used a flat back four that night, they would have won. They'd have liberated an extra man for attack, just as they could against Belgium.

I shan't enlarge on that subject, but will merely recall Robson's extraordinary words after England had somehow scrambled to their victory over Cameroon: "A flat back four saved us." Indeed it did, since Robson's so-called sweeper defence was all over the place until Wright was injured, and quick little Parker was put on to the hitherto rampant Milla.

Wright, as a sweeper, had shown only a sketchy idea of how to operate, Butcher who, as Robson himself admitted, was obliged by Holland's formation to play as a left-footed right-back that night, was a far better sweeper, in the West German game.

Now he has retired – "Butcher, always Butcher!" Enzo Bearzot used to laugh – and Parker, Wright and Walker can divide the duties, with Barrett of Oldham moving up fast.

Another obtrudes. Was the decision to use a sweeper Robson's at all, or was it imposed on him by his players?

England's David Platt and Paul Gascoigne take on the Cameroon defence during the World Cup Finals.

Appalling

In Mexico four years earlier, it was a players' revolution, coupled with the injury to Bryan Robson and the expulsion of Ray Wilkins, which led to Bobby Robson at last fielding an effective team, after a couple of appalling performances against Portugal and Morocco.

Robson's luck held; until the Hand of God, or Maradona, struck. It held again in Italy; until the team went down on penalties against the West Germans.

It seems sad to me that such euphoria should have been generated by what was essentially a modest performance by the England team. They began abysmally against Ireland, stood up well to the Dutch and really deserved to win, squeezed through against a timorous Egypt, were a little lucky to survive against Belgium, and very lucky indeed to come through against Cameroon.

They played good, intelligent but hardly penetrative football against West Germany. Their failures from the penalty spot were in a sense a kind of parody of their lack of finishing power all evening.

Would they have beaten Argentina had they got through? They might well have done so, but it probably would have been as grisly an encounter as the final between the Argentines and West Germans; no Gascoigne for England (and

remember how long Robson resisted him!), and thus no inspiration, no Caniggia for Argentina. And how they missed him!

In parenthesis, Caniggia's version of the goal which pegged back Italy in Naples is interesting. You will remember that Italy conceded it when Caniggia's blond head preceded Zenga's hands to a near post corner, diverting the ball into the net.

Returning to Italy from Argentina, to resume his career with Atalanta, Caniggia said: "Everyone says that goal in the semi final was Zenga's fault, and so my merits are reduced to nothing. I say no. The ball was in the six yard box, I am sure that Zenga didn't see me, I remember that he shouted, 'Mine, leave it!' to his colleagues.

"He didn't notice me, who popped up unexpectedly, and pulled off a real stroke. He couldn't do anything about my head flick. But perhaps he came out too far, he could have waited on the line, if he had stayed there I probably wouldn't have managed to score. But I did well, really well, myself, I want to say that."

Arguable

As well he may. Returning to the subject of England, and what one might call Small Expectations, it does sadden me to think that we apparently demand so little from our team.

Euphoria was certainly justified after England won the World Cup in 1966, even if it is arguable that England played only two really impressive games: the semi-final and the final.

I remember attending one of their training sessions at the Bank of England ground at Roehampton, about midway through the tournament, and asking Jimmy Armfield, then the reserve right-back, what he thought of their chances. "Slight," he said.

England made awfully heavy weather in the quarter-finals of defeating a ten-man Argentina, when Rattin was sent off, but they came splendidly to life against Portugal and certainly deserved, in the final, to beat West Germany, whatever the doubts about Geoff Hurst's second goal.

There were plenty about the West German equaliser, for Jackie Charlton probably was fouled when that crucial free-kick was given against him.

The 1970 team was a very good one too, but Alf Ramsey has subsequently admitted he really thought 1966's was better; he just wanted to encourage the 1970 side.

But had Gordon Banks not had that Fatal Glass of Beer, and thus missed the match in Leon against West Germany, England surely would have reached the semi-final, and probably the final. They played some glorious football against West Germany, before they tired in the heat and at the altitude.

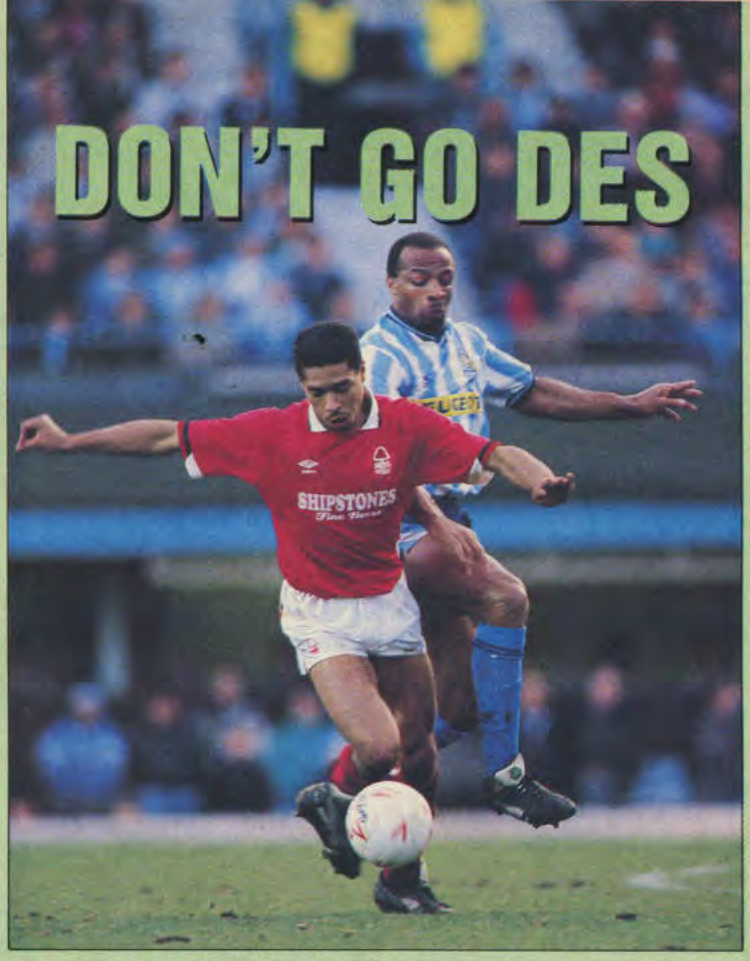
But comparisons, especially at 20 years' distance, are probably not so much odious as just irrelevant. Clever Dick talked, with a splendid command of satire, about English journalists choking on their spaghetti when England – and by extension Bobby Robson – did well.

Shucks, Bart; you writer fellows have a way with words! Clever Dick – Clever Matt's? – envoi was to deny scornfully that Robson had been remotely lucky.

I would reply with an analogy. The popular American cartoon strip, I Go Pogo featured a knowing possum in the swamps of Louisiana. One day, he and the other animals are trekking through the swamp under pouring rain. They are miserable; and make the alligator their leader. Then the rain stops. The alligator claims the credit. The other animals demur. The alligator says, "It happened during my administration, didn't it?"

The defence rests.

DON'T GO DES



DES WALKER is, one hears, still hoping to join Juventus when transfer lists re-open on October 24, but I wonder if it would be the best thing for him? Financially, of course, some £450,000 a year, tax free, with an apartment, a car and free trips back to England seem enviable enough.

But the price in human terms could be high. I wonder if Walker has talked to Ian Rush, who spent such an unhappy time in Turin, and has never been quite the same player since he got back?

There are analogies between them; and none at all with the exuberant Paul Elliott, who played so happily for Pisa, and is now with Glasgow Celtic.

Walker, like Rush, is a shy young man, closely attached to his family and friends. Walker hates giving interviews, though he is perfectly courteous with the Press. He says that when he sees himself quoted in the newspapers, it somehow feels all wrong.

Can you imagine what it would be like to face the massed and massive intrusion of the Italian Press, whose daily bread consists of interviews with the game's heroes?

And would Walker ever learn Italian? Rush never did. Elliott, who already spoke French, learned it quickly. But as Elliott himself was always ready to point out, at Pisa, the pressure on him – a centre half not a striker, playing for a club which looked for nothing but salvation – was very different from that on Rush: a Juventus striker.

Defenders

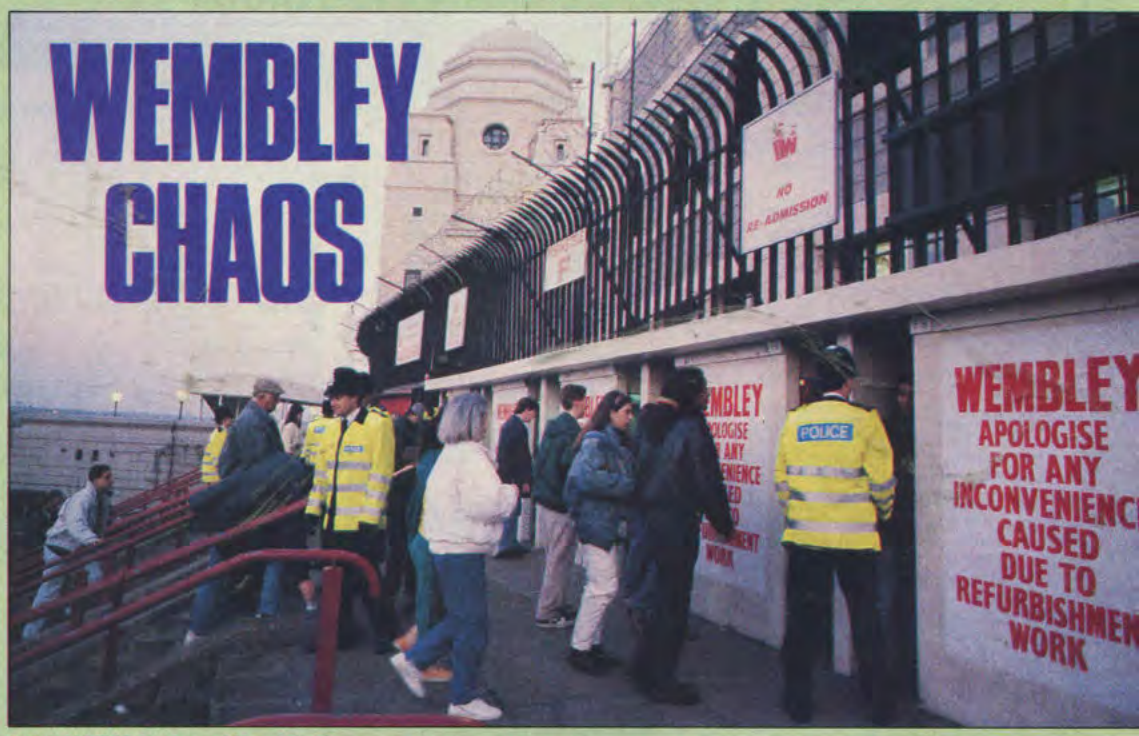
Not winning the Championship is by definition failure for Juve, and their demanding patron, Gianni Agnelli of Fiat, whom God preserve. Moreover, the new Juve manager, Gigi Maifredi, didn't want Walker.

This was largely because he had bought with him from Bologna two defenders of his own, Luppi and Marco Antonio De Marchi. He wanted one of them to line up alongside the new Brazilian centre-half, Julio Cesar.

Agnelli still thinks that the Juve defence needs reinforcing and that Walker should be the man. What Maifredi thinks is of no importance at all in such circumstances. The writ of the avvocato – lawyer Agnelli – runs.

Talk of Walker being too expensive for Juve, even at £7 million, is nonsense. Baggio cost them £8 million. They paid over £6 million on the gamble of the Lazio winger, Di Canio, a clever ball player who occasionally remembers to pass. But I still think Walker, unless he brought his family and a friend or two with him, could end up in Turin an unhappy, lonely, isolated young man.

WEMBLEY CHAOS



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'DON'T MAKE PROBLEMS WHERE THEY DON'T EXIST'

Man at the top – Sweden's Lennart Johansson.

Exclusive interview with UEFA president Lennart Johansson by Stefan Tarras

THE president of the Swedish Football Federation, Lennart Johansson, became the fifth president of UEFA last April by 20 votes to 15. His election put him in the hottest European chair of them all.

Three years earlier, when UEFA representatives met the European Commission, the deep cleft between them showed clearly. The Commission wanted a Free Market where the four freedoms – Labour, Capital, Goods and Services – could move freely. UEFA could not accept that because it would lead to the total collapse of the traditional transfer system, one of the foundations on which professional football is based.

Lennart Johansson was born on November 5, 1929, in Akeshov, a western suburb of Stockholm. His father was a carpenter with five other children. After going through primary and commercial school he started his professional career in the Forshaga Floor Production company. He eventually became one of the directors and ended as managing director, with his office in Zurich. He retired in 1988 but stayed on as an adviser.

W.S.: What about your sporting career?

L.J.: In soccer as well as in all other sport I was mediocre. But I loved soccer the most and understood that my place would be as an organiser. With the assistance of a brother-in-law I joined A.I.K. Stockholm in the early 1940s.

I progressed to chairman of the football section and later was voted chairman of the board. I kept that position for 14 years, more than anyone else in the club. Later I was voted on to Svensk Elitfotboll, the Swedish league organisation, and was elected chairman.

Then I was elected a member of the board of the Swedish Football Association and in 1976 became chairman. And on April 19 this year I was elected to be the fifth president of UEFA.

W.S.: Nearly six months have passed. When you are looking back on this period was it as you had expected? Was it easier or more difficult?

L.J.: The problems were more extensive, the work more extensive. It was a greater task than I had expected. Perhaps this should be explained by my great ambition to be everywhere, know everything and everyone, to be part of every committee meeting. To be able to fulfil the tasks as UEFA president you must get to know the people on every level very well. During the summer I have had time to settle down and think through things, and I am now slowly adjusting at last.

Motive

W.S.: Within UEFA there are of course many different interests presented, like football federations, clubs, officials,sponsors etc. How will you be able to unite all these?

L.J.: You must learn to sit on different chairs. You must try to understand all parties involved, the special opinions and the different interests they are defending. A guiding motive for me is the future of the old close relationships UEFA always cultivated within itself and outside.

SWEDES ARE THINKING AHEAD

THE finals of the seventh European Championships, the biggest sporting event in Sweden's history, will be held over 17 days in June 1992.

The opening game will be in Stockholm's Rasundastadion on June 10, with the final in Gothenburg on June 26.

The host nation and the seven winners of each of the qualifying groups will go into the draw for the finals, which will be made in January 1992.

Goran Havik is directing the organising staff of Euro 1992 from his office in the Rasunda.

He told World Soccer: "We have five people working full-time on the project. Although the tournament's final stages are a long way off, we have been involved for more than a year, working with various types of organisations.

"Enlarging and renewing the four grounds to be used for the finals is a very important part of the operation."

The venues are in Stockholm, which has a population of 1.6 million, Gothenburg (720,000), Malmo (232,000) and Norrkoping (120,000).

The Gothenburg stadium, Nya Ullevi, has the biggest capacity – 45,000. The Rasunda holds 43,000, the Malmostadion and Norrkoping Idrottspark 35,000 each.

Owned

Euro 92 staff hope to have learned from the mistakes made over World Cup ticket sales in Italy earlier this year. The same applies to hotel bookings and the organisation of transport. "The media will be another important factor," said Goran Havik. "We are busy with equipping the press centres, and co-operating fully with television and radio stations and of course with Televerket, the state-owned electricity company.

"When the European Championships were held in West Germany two years ago there were 4,000 journalists, and 115 TV stations represented. In 1992 there will be many more.

"This is the biggest sporting event in our country's history, even more than in 1958, when we staged the World Cup, and 1912, when we held the Olympic Games.

"We're convinced that Euro 92 will be good business for us and for international soccer."

The Swedes are leaving nothing to chance. A four-nation tournament will be held in Stockholm next year, giving the organisers the opportunity to test the entire set-up.

"The West Germans did the same in 1987," said Havik. "They had a four-team competition in West Berlin as a trial run before the championships. And Sweden won."

Perhaps that will prove to be a lucky omen for the 1992 hosts.

STEFAN TARRAS

UEFA CHIEF HITS BACK AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN 'FOREIGNERS ROW'

A sad scene ... police in action at Heysel Stadium in 1985.

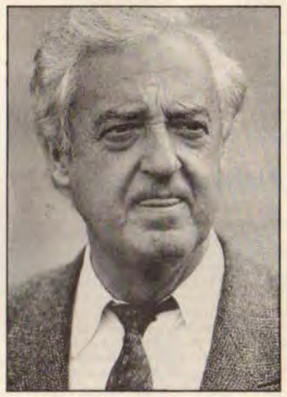
This must now be consolidated, especially during a period when we have a lot of turbulence in European soccer, with the reunification of the German states, the aspirations of liberation among the ex-communist states, the ambitions of the big clubs to break away in superleagues, the aspirations of the Common Market.

In trying to create unitary rules in the transfer circuit we have explained to the Common Market that we created our own E.C. long before they created theirs. It would be most unfortunate if we were to get two sets of rules, one for the countries within the Common Market and another for the non-member countries. If the Common Market Commission are to accept our rules we can reach real and thorough unification with UEFA and so far I am quite pleased with how things have developed.

A separation between us and the E.C. would endanger the various European competitions and even the European Championship and the World Cup.

W.S.: Big clubs want to create super leagues. What is your opinion of this?

L.J.: I understand the situations of these clubs. They make large profits but they also invest a lot of money. Of course their aim is to stay at the top and that's why they would like to consolidate their positions by trying to break away. We have tried to meet their demands by changing the mode of the European tournaments. Already this season we have seeded the two first rounds, which means that the big clubs will not confront each other until the quarter-finals. We even have plans for the future where the European cups will be further changed by playing the first two phases in groups like we do in the World Cup and in the European championship.


Ramon Mendoza.

But we also have to think about the smaller clubs and their interests. It means a lot to them to be able to participate with the big clubs, even if only once. A separation with super leagues would also mean greater pressure on the national leagues, where they already have problems with sinking numbers of spectators.

W.S.: What about the contradictions between UEFA and the E.C. over foreign players in national leagues?

L.J.: Our compromise is to accept three foreign players per club in the national leagues. We have already voted through a rule which means that players who signed contracts when they were in their teens are able to play in foreign leagues as if they were not foreigners. But we voted against the aspirations of the E.C. commission who wanted to completely open up the boundaries within the Free Market. We also are trying to persuade the E.C. that this is not only a question for UEFA and for Europe. It is also a question for FIFA, who have the last say, and the whole community of world football.

We have a well-functioning transfer system. So far, without any great protests from federations, clubs and players, it has been accepted. Why should this now be altered? Apart from this we want to retain the positive sides of nationalism. Most of us anyway still want to watch internationals, World Cups, etc. That's why we want to keep the traditional structures.

W.S.: If the E.C. stick to their ambitions, what will your reaction be?

L.J.: This of course is a matter of the law and the lawyers. For example UEFA is a Swiss organisation and we do not have to obey the E.C. commission. But if lawyers do not agree, who shall know which law is the correct one? If our members are ready to stick with our traditional laws I do not understand why the E.C. should alter it. Why waste so much time on matters which already run quite smoothly, when there are so many other matters to be concerned about?

Our opinion and what we keep in our hearts is that a football professional is not an ordinary worker but an artist whose career lasts about a decade. That's why we are telling the E.C. 'Do not create problems where they do not exist'.

W.S.: There are attempts from the giants in the game to break away and with national and multinational cooperations create something like a European counterpart of the National Hockey League in North America, which has been called the most profitable team sport league in the world.

Anarchy

L.J.: I have already talked to Silvio Berlusconi, the owner of A.C. Milan, who at that specific moment anyway did not mention plans like that. I have also met Ramon Mendoza, president of Real Madrid. He did not find these problems so urgent, but was rather more anxious about the Italians taking over more and more of the transfer market. But if any group of clubs break away we would expel them from UEFA and would continue our work without them. To dissolve UEFA would be no solution. That would only lead to anarchy.

W.S.: Only three months after you became president, UEFA decided that English clubs were to be allowed back into Europe. Why did you take this decision?

L.J.: My private view before entering UEFA always was that the solution was to bring them back. A long-term solution could never be to keep them out. Many other clubs also had problems with riots and hooliganism, and they were still kept in. Why then should the English clubs be kept outside?

W.S.: Now many fans are asking about Liverpool. How much longer will they be kept out?

L.J.: The main reason is that Liverpool have not made any approach. It should come from them, not from us. I personally would not hesitate to allow them to play again but that is up to UEFA as an organisation to decide. We shall not forget the tragedies of Heysel and Hillsborough, but keeping Liverpool out will not help.

Fans against authority – one of Johansson's problems.

LETTERS

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (NO long lists, please) can be dealt with only through this column.

PEN PALS

20-YEAR-OLD FAN fan of PSV Eindhoven would like to write to soccer fans worldwide, and exchange pictures, pins, flags, pennants, match tickets, etc. Please write in English, German or Dutch to Mattijs Tilman, Irenelaan 6, 5591 Ge Heeze, Holland.
ENGLISH fan, 26, wants to correspond worldwide, especially Italy and United States. John Garbett, flat 2, 19 Lansdowne Street, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1FS.
FOOTBALLER, 16, playing in Nigeria would like to hear from pen pals anywhere in the world. Suny Igboeli, 21 St. Johns Cross, Onitsha, Anambra, Nigeria.
GIRL, 15, seeks pen pals anywhere. Hobbies are music, films, photos, exchanges, reading. Joyce Thomas, c/o T. Masaki, P.O. Box 2977, Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania.
I WOULD like to correspond with supporters of Tottenham, Norwich, Chelsea, Aston Villa and Glasgow Celtic. Mariusz Taudul, Ul. Broniewskiego 6c/m.98, 15-730 Bialystok, Poland.
PEN PALS wanted by 16-year-old Nigerian secondary school pupil. Innocent Anyanwu, P.O. Box 120, Enyiogugu, Mbaise, Imo State, Nigeria.
18-YEAR-OLD Moscow Dynamo fan wants to correspond with fans of Everton, Leeds, Chelsea, Manchester United, SV Hamburg, Inter Milan, Lazio, Aberdeen and other European clubs. Please write in English, German, Italian or Russian to Alexander Postoy, Novgorodskaya St., 4-407, 127576 Moscow, USSR.
I PROMISE to answer all letters received, from either sex. I am a Ghanaian, 20, interested in football, hockey, music, movies, travel, reading and many more. Eric Lotsu, Box 512 Sunyani B/A, Ghana.
LIVERPOOL fan, 28, looking for pen pals and exchanges. Shalaev Pavel, Hasanskay 18-1-66, Leningrad 195298, USSR.
I AM a 15-year-old Tanzanian girl looking for pen pals all over the world. My hobbies are music, books, netball and collecting pictures and postcards. Please write with photo to Tatul Mburambo Ibrahimu, Zanaki High School, Box 20592, Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania.
SOCCER fan in Nigeria wants a pen pal, either sex. Njoku Jude, P.O. Box 80, Enyiogugu, Aboh Mbaise, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria.

EXCHANGE

I AM a 17-year-old collector of anything to do with football, and want to exchange Hungarian magazines, programmes, etc. for similar British publications. Titusz Fabian, 3525 Miskolc, Matyas Kiraly U.26, Hungary.
BELGIAN reader will exchange videos of matches here for scarves of any European team. Eric Delfante, Quartier Bon Air 20, 7680 Blaton, Belgium.
18-YEAR-OLD reader will exchange football souvenirs, particularly from Holland, Germany, Italy, France and Spain. R. Dingle, 84 Wood Lane, Carlton, Barnsley, S. Yorks, England S71 3JJ.
MY HOBBIES include collecting banknotes and postcards, and I hope to hear from anyone interested in exchanging. Marcel Castro Cruz, Calle 25, 26-76 Tulua, Colombia, S. America.
JUVENTUS fan, 16, wants to exchange soccer magazines, souvenirs, flags, photos, etc. Write in English, French or Italian to Simone Odino, Via Antonio Gramsci 59, 40012, Calderara di Reno, Italy.
BULGARIAN collector wants to exchange football souvenirs with friends worldwide. Gretien Slavov, 1517 Sofia-17, Poste Restante, Bulgaria.

COLLECTORS

PLEASE send colour photos or sketches of international and club strips and colours anywhere in the world, for a reference book I am writing. S. Chmara, 10 Glebeville, Leek, Staffordshire, England.

Too tired to shine

SIR – Diego Maradona's suggestion of moving the World Cup finals to September was very sensible.

Although there were many very good players in the finals such as Matthaus and Gascoigne, Italia '90 was distinctly lacking in the type of players who rise above the rest with ability to dominate and decide games on their own (in other words, great individualists).

There were only two players in the tournament this year who had the ability to give this type of performance – Gullit and Maradona, and sadly, both were badly out of form.

Had the finals been held a little later then Maradona, who was as skilful as ever but seemed to lack his old pace and drive, would have had ample time to recover from a hard season with Napoli, and Gullit would have had further time to regain his fitness.

Obviously the finals could not have been moved simply to suit two individuals (even if they are the best in the world) but FIFA should remember that with Italian clubs buying so many of the big names, playing in the Italian league is becoming as demanding as playing at international level and the case of top players being unfit or tired for the World Cup will not be uncommon in the future – unless something is done. – STEPHEN DELANEY, Keighley, West Yorkshire.

Make it flexible

SIR – With the allocation of places in the World Cup finals causing increasing controversy it is clearly time to consider a new qualifying system.

I suggest splitting the entrants into three zones:

1. The Americas (South + Concacaf).
2. Half the European entry plus Africa.
3. The rest of Europe plus Asia-Oceania.

The Americas would always have one quarter of the places in the finals (i.e. one in each first stage group), the remainder being split equally between the other zones.

The places for hosts and holders would be taken from this allocation as required, any resulting imbalance in zones two and three being resolved by giving the higher number of qualifying places to the zone with the higher entry. All groups within each zone would include nations from both continents (counting Asia/Oceania as one).

The virtues of this system are that apart from the hosts and holders no continent has any guaranteed finals places, and all finalists have to defeat opposition from outside their own continent in order to qualify, thus hopefully strengthening the quality of the finals.

The system also allow for a flexible number of finalists, 24, 32 or even a return to 16, which would make it easier for small nations to stage the tournament.

By the way, did it occur to those who started Italia '90 looking for three draws that, had the same system operated in Spain 1982, Cameroon, with three draws, would have been eliminated? – STEPHEN J. WOOD, Stalybridge, Cheshire.

Baffling coaches

SIR – Reading last month's World Soccer I was forcibly struck by how far the jargon of soccer tactics has forced its way into the parlance of the modern game.

Deep analyses have already taken place into the tactical significance of Italia '90 compared with other tournaments. Great importance is attached to "original thinking" in coaching and the selection of various formations. Indeed the choice between 3-5-2, 4-4-2 and 5-3-2 has assumed an almost pseudo – intellectual significance worthy of complex mathematical theorems.

But aren't we getting carried away? Football is a simple game, and successful teams are those achieving high standards of quality, balance and motivation.

For all the rest – including the ridiculous clip-board used by one World Cup coach to explain his instructions to substitutes about to take the field – I'm afraid it's one more example of a group of people trying to mystify the general public.

Why do they do this? Simple. If coaches can convince us that tactics and strategy are only for the well-versed, widely experienced and deeply comprehending, we might treat them with greater respect and value their services more highly.

West Germany won the World Cup because they had good players, who by and large played in position rather than out of it, and who possessed the will to win. They had their weaknesses – the poor form of Berthold, a vulnerability to good crosses and the theatrical diving of Klinsmann – but taken as a whole, their strengths outweighed their deficiencies.

I don't want to be labelled a 'Philistine' in my rejection of highbrow thinking on the game. English soccer certainly has its problems. But these are to do with a lack of technique, something which must be tackled on the training ground.

To all those who practice blackboard tactics and who insist on the scientific approach to the game, seemingly favoured by the former Soviet coach among others, I make a heartfelt plea: don't push the joy and fun out of football by needlessly complicating it. The game at its best will always be about spontaneity, emotion, skill and luck. – RICHARD DARN, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Irish inspiration

SIR – I read with disgust the letter from C. van Graap of Canada. Variety and artistry non-existent in Irish players? Rubbish!

If that is so, how is that Houghton, Whelan and Staunton, three of the Irish squad for Italia '90, all play regularly for Liverpool, one of the most technically skilful sides in Europe? And Paul McGrath was one of the stars of Italia '90.

Just because the Irish system is not pretty, this does not mean there are no quality players. When they want to, the Irish squad can play with style, variety, and yes, Mr Van Graap, even artistry.

And as you wrote, those are what football is all about. – FLORRY O'DRISCOLL, Aulane Kilflynn, Co. Kerry, Eire.

Pressure points

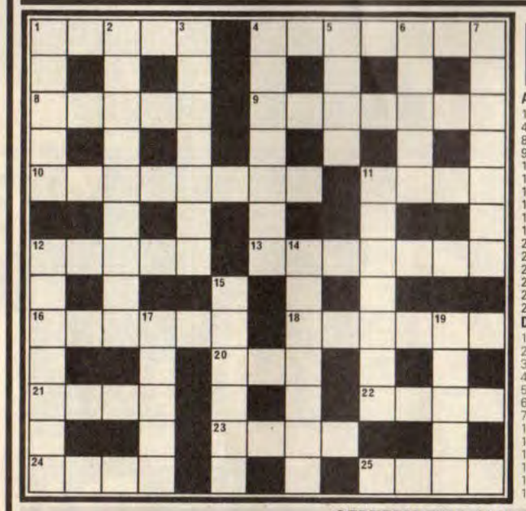
SIR – Regarding the penalty shootout debate, I have a suggestion better than all those you have had so far.

A record should be kept of the number of attempts at goal, the number of times a team went within 30 yards of the opposing goal, and time spent in the opposing half (actual time when the ball is in play).

Points would be awarded on this basis, and the team with the most points at the end of extra time would be the winner.

This would avoid players having to carry the thought that they put their country out by missing a shootout penalty.

It also would encourage attacking play, poorer teams would not scrape through, there would be no need to change the tournament's format, and we wouldn't have to witness such cynical and boring football as occurred in Italia '90. – A.S. DEARMAN, Chelmsford, Essex.



WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD
Compiled by Barry Talbot

ACROSS
1. French scorer against England in the 1982 World Cup.
4. Member of West Germany's 1966 World Cup final team.
8. Stefan, Romanian defender.
9. Helmut Schoen's successor.
10. Scorer in the 1982 World Cup final.
11. Member of Italy's World Cup side.
12. Ex-Norwich and West Ham centre-forward.
13. Peruvian wing star in the 1978 and 82 World Cups.
16. The ..... Ground, Upton Park.
18. Udo, former Bayern Munich manager.
20. Jesus, controversial Atletico supremo.
21. Brazilian half-back of the Sixties.
22. Famous name in Hungarian soccer.
23. Gary, Notts County forward.
24. Greek soccer team.
25. Paul, Football League manager.

DOWN
1. Legendary England goalkeeper.
2. 1973 winners of the UEFA Cup.
3. Losers of the first Cup-Winners' Cup final.
4. Former French national team boss.
5. Chilean midfield star in the 1962 World Cup.
6. Benfica scorer in the 1968 Champions' Cup Final.
7. Scott, Second Division midfielder.
11. Record-breaking goalkeeper.
12. 1970 Uruguayan World Cup semi-final scorer.
14. French scorer in the 1984 European Championship final.
16. Scored 23 goals for Stockport County last season.
17. Alan, ex-Aston Villa centre-half.
19. ..... Street, home of Hereford United.

SEPTEMBER'S ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Scirea. 5. Seeler. 7. Uwe. 8. Peters. 9. Kogl. 11. Pepe. 12. Ivanov. 13. Gage. 14. Roma. 15. Lecce. 17. Ross. 19. Dens. 22. Goram. 24. Olsen. 25. Aleinikov. DOWN: 2. Clemente. 3. Roeder. 4. Austria. 5. Seasiders. 6. Elkjaer. 10. Goodman. 13. Germano. 16. Corver. 18. Stoke. 20. Edson. 21. Sanon. 22. Gary. 23. Love.

MICHELS IS BACK

But it's Double Dutch to European Champions

BY SIMON KUPER

RINUS MICHELS has appointed himself Holland's new manager and Frank Rijkaard has decided not to play for Holland any more. Both events mean catastrophe for the Dutch, two years ago the best side in the world. Four proud men have torn the team apart – Michels, Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Johan Cruyff.

Gullit used to adore Michels. On his initiative, the players presented Michels with a beautiful watch the day before the European Championship Final in 1988. Michels cried: it was the first present a team had ever given him. He and Gullit were like "a grandfather with his child", one Dutch journalist wrote. Two years later, their relationship is dead. Gullit and Van Basten do not want Michels back.

It all started in April. The players had just ousted Thijs Libregts, their manager, and a majority of the squad voted for Cruyff as his replacement. Importantly, Holland's key players all voted for Cruyff: Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Ronald Koeman and Jan Wouters.

Michels was responsible for appointing the new manager. After leading Holland to victory in the European Championships, and after a disastrous few months trying to manage Bayer Leverkusen, Michels had become a director of the Dutch FA. The players had asked him to appoint Cruyff, but Michels and Cruyff no longer get on. He gave the job to his buddy Leo Beenhakker.

Gullit and Van Basten were furious. In the Dutch tradition, the best players have a large say in strategy and they felt that Michels had treated them like children.

"What he has done is very low," Van Basten said in April. Michels forced him to apologise.

Rhetoric

The unity of purpose of 1988 had gone. Michels had appointed Beenhakker instead of Cruyff, so Van Basten sulked, Gullit raged, and Beenhakker's well-worn rhetoric was all in vain. Holland beat themselves, and the players have the rest of their lives to rue the lost opportunity.

Beenhakker had been appointed manager for the duration of the World Cup. When the Dutch returned home, he announced that he had no desire to continue. Tellingly, he blamed Holland's failure on the bad relationship between players and directors. He also said that he was keeping secret "75 per cent of what happened" in the Dutch squad in Italy. Beenhakker has always found scapegoats for his failures, but it seems that this time circumstances really did make his job impossible.

Public opinion then forced Michels to offer Cruyff the job. Cruyff is the next furious man in our story. He wanted to know why, in April, Michels had chosen Beenhakker above him.

Beenhakker ... unpopular.

Libregts ... ousted.

"All my life I've been used to being first. Not second," he told the press. His work at Barcelona forced him to refuse Michel's belated offer, but he told his former manager that he would like to manage Holland at the European Championship in Sweden. He wanted his friend Wim Jansen to act as caretaker manager during the qualifying rounds. Jansen, technical director at SVV Schiedam, is a follower of Cruyff's views on football. Cruyff also demanded that Michels apologise to Van Basten for humiliating him in April. Cruyff and Van Basten are best friends.

Then, at the end of August, the Dutch FA appointed Michels as Holland's new manager. At the board meeting, Michels had told his fellow directors that he had been unable to find a suitable candidate.

Cruyff ... demands.

What happened next was utterly unexpected. Martin van Rooijen, the FA chairman, explains. "We concluded that Michels would have to take up the post again. We then strongly requested him to do so."

Michels told the press: "I did everything I could to avoid it. But then I felt responsibility to the team and to the fans, and I accepted."

The board's request can have been no surprise to Michels.

He says: "If the players are realistic, they'll have to come to the same conclusion as I did: in these circumstances there is no better solution."

Gullit and Van Basten might disagree. They were upset, in any case, that the FA had not consulted them about the appointment.

"The past has shown that the players are ignored," said Gullit, referring to the appointment of Beenhakker. "Michels's appointment is further proof of that. I wasn't told about it. In fact, the FA haven't phoned me since the World Cup.

"The players have an opinion. But if the gentlemen on the board ignore us, what point is there in expressing our opinion? You can say that we should play football and shut up, but it doesn't work that way."

Michels appointed Dick Advocaat as his new assistant manager, at the expense of Nol De Ruiter. Advocaat, 43, is manager of SVV Schiedam, where he is a colleague of Cruyff's nominee Jansen. Advocaat has been a friend of Michels since the mid-1980s, when Michels managed the national team and Advocaat was in charge of Holland's youth sides.

Michels's plan is clear. Holland are in a weak qualifying group – their chief rivals are Portugal – and despite everything should qualify for the European Championship Finals in 1992. If they reach the semi-finals of the tournament, he can retire gracefully and appoint Advocaat as his successor. By then Advocaat would have enough prestige to be acceptable to the Dutch public.

It is just possible that Michels will regain his former grip on the minds of Gullit and Van Basten. The Sphinx already has the support of Holland's more ordinary players, who lack Gullit's desire to control events. Hans Van Breukelen, Holland's goalkeeper, said: "With Michels you can be sure that order will return. And that's the main thing for the Dutch team at the moment. The moaning must stop."

But it is not Van Breukelen, but Gullit and Van Basten who win matches and tournaments. They must be appeased – otherwise they might well go the way of Frank Rijkaard, and stop playing for Holland.

"Like everyone else, I had a moment in Italy when I thought: I've had enough of this," Van Basten admitted.

Disgrace ... Rijkaard and Voller sent off in the Milan World Cup clash.

Distress

Rijkaard is less ambitious than his two team-mates at Milan. His drive is enjoyment, not pride. He is a peaceful soul, and was sickened by the intrigues in the Dutch camp.

"I've always given my all for Holland," Rijkaard explained. "But I can no longer do that. Then it's best to stop. Doing that says more than enough. I won't look into the future to see whether I'll ever return."

Rijkaard and Gullit, significantly, are no longer best friends. Rijkaard feels Gullit should keep quiet until his football improves. What is certain is that Holland have lost one of the world's best footballers.

Without Rijkaard, Holland would have been knocked out in the first round in Italy. Without him, will they even qualify for Sweden?

Michels ... showing off the 1988 European Championship trophy.

Gullit ... he should keep quiet, says Rijkaard.

Van Breukelen ... this moaning must stop, he says.

Van Basten ... treated like a child, he claims.

Delight ... the Dutch squad in celebratory mood.

ENGLAND AWAY ENGLAND HOME ENGLAND 3rd
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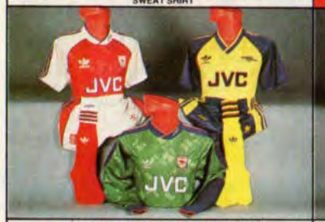

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13.10.90 France – Czechoslovakia
14.11.90 Czechoslovakia – Spain
17.11.90 Albania – France
19.12.90 Spain – Albania
20.2.91 France – Spain
30.3.91 France – Albania
1.5.91 Albania – Czechoslovakia
26.5.91 Albania – Iceland
5.6.91 Iceland – Czechoslovakia
4.9.91 Czechoslovakia – France
25.9.91 Iceland – Spain
12.10.91 Spain – France
16.10.91 Czechoslovakia – Albania
13.11.91 Spain – Czechoslovakia
13/20.11.91 France – Iceland
18.12.91 Albania – Spain

GROUP 2
(Romania, Scotland, Bulgaria, Switzerland, San Marino)
12.9.90 Switzerland 2 Bulgaria 0
12.9.90 Scotland 2 Romania 1
17.10.90 Romania – Bulgaria
17.10.90 Scotland – Switzerland
14.11.90 Bulgaria – Scotland
14.11.90 San Marino – Switzerland
5.12.90 Romania – San Marino
27.3.91 Scotland – Bulgaria
27.3.91 San Marino – Romania
3.4.91 Switzerland – Romania
1.5.91 Bulgaria – Switzerland
1.5.91 San Marino – Scotland
22.5.91 San Marino – Bulgaria
5.6.91 Switzerland – San Marino
11.9.91 Switzerland – Scotland
16.10.91 Bulgaria – San Marino
16.10.91 Romania – Scotland
13.11.91 Scotland – San Marino
13.11.91 Romania – Switzerland
20.11.91 Bulgaria – Romania

GROUP 3
(Italy, USSR, Hungary, Norway, Cyprus)
12.9.90 USSR 2 Norway 0
10.10.90 Norway – Hungary
17.10.90 Hungary – Italy
31.10.90 Hungary – Cyprus
3.11.90 Italy – USSR
14.11.90 Cyprus – Norway
22.12.90 Cyprus – Italy
3.4.91 Cyprus – Hungary
17.4.91 Hungary – USSR
1.5.91 Italy – Hungary
1.5.91 Norway – Cyprus
22/29.5.91 USSR – Cyprus
5.6.91 Norway – Italy
28.8.91 Norway – USSR
25.9.91 USSR – Hungary
12.10.91 USSR – Italy
30.10.91 Hungary – Norway
13.11.91 Italy – Norway
13.11.91 Cyprus – USSR
21.12.91 Italy – Cyprus

GROUP 4
(Yugoslavia, Denmark, Austria, Northern Ireland, Faroe Islands)
12.9.90 N. Ireland 0 Yugoslavia 2
12.9.90 Faroe Islands 1 Austria 0
10.10.90 Denmark – Faroe Islands
17.10.90 N. Ireland – Denmark
31.10.90 Yugoslavia – Austria
14.11.90 Denmark – Yugoslavia
14.11.90 Austria – N. Ireland
27.3.91 Yugoslavia – N. Ireland
1.5.91 Yugoslavia – Denmark
1.5.91 N. Ireland – Faroe Islands
14/15.5.91 Yugoslavia – Faroe Islands
22.5.91 Austria – Faroe Islands
5.6.91 Denmark – Austria
11.9.91 Faroe Islands – N. Ireland
25.9.91 Faroe Islands – Denmark
9.10.91 Austria – Denmark
16.10.91 Faroe Islands – Yugoslavia
16.10.91 N. Ireland – Austria
13.11.91 Denmark – N. Ireland
13.11.91 Austria – Yugoslavia

GROUP 5
(Germany, Belgium, Wales, Luxembourg)
17.10.90 Wales – Belgium
31.10.90 Luxembourg – Germany
14.11.90 Luxembourg – Wales
27.2.91 Belgium – Luxembourg
27.3.91 Belgium – Wales
1.5.91 Germany – Belgium
5.6.91 Wales – Germany
11.9.91 Luxembourg – Belgium
16.10.91 Germany – Wales
13.11.90 Wales – Luxembourg
20.11.91 Belgium – Germany
17.12.91 Germany – Luxembourg

GROUP 6
(Holland, Portugal, Greece, Finland, Malta)
12.9.90 Finland 0 Portugal 0
17.10.90 Portugal – Holland
31.10.90 Greece – Malta
21.11.90 Holland – Greece
25.11.90 Malta – Finland
19/23.12.90 Malta – Holland
23.1.91 Greece – Portugal
9.2.91 Malta – Portugal
20.2.91 Portugal – Malta
13.3.91 Holland – Malta
17.4.91 Holland – Finland
16.5.91 Finland – Malta
5.6.91 Finland – Holland
11.9.91 Portugal – Finland
9.10.91 Finland – Greece
16.10.91 Holland – Portugal
30.10.91 Greece – Finland
20.11.91 Portugal – Greece
4.12.91 Greece – Holland
22.12.91 Malta – Greece

GROUP 7
(England, Republic of Ireland, Poland, Turkey)
17.10.90 England – Poland
17.10.90 Rep. of Ireland – Turkey
14.11.90 Rep. of Ireland – England
14.11.90 Turkey – Poland
27.3.91 England – Rep. of Ireland
17.4.91 Poland – Turkey
1.5.91 Turkey – England
1.5.91 Rep. of Ireland – Poland
16.10.91 Poland – Rep. of Ireland
16.10.91 England – Turkey
13.11.91 Turkey – Rep. of Ireland
13.11.91 Poland – England

PORTUGAL by TIM COLLINS

Gomes back with a bang

SPORTING LISBON, without a championship success for nine years, began the new Portuguese season in determined and convincing style – and with Fernando Gomes back among the goals.

After opening with a 3-0 win over Guimaraes and 5-2 win at Penfiel, they thrashed newly-promoted Salgueiros 5-1 to stay top with Porto, one point clear of the rest.

Gomes, winner of the Golden Boot as Europe's top scorer in 1986, proved he had lost none of his touch around the box with a hat-trick to take his total to six goals in three games.

Brazilians, as usual, hogged the rest of the Portuguese headlines, with Porto's Geraldao scoring twice in their 3-1 win over Boavista and Isaias netting for Benfica's 2-0 defeat of Penafiel.

PORTUGUESE FIXTURES

October 7
Guinaraes v Penafiel
Gil Vicente v Salgueiros
Beira Mar v Boavista
Maritimo v Belenenses
Benfica v Estrela Amadora
Sporting Lisbon v x
Porto v Nacional
Tirsense v Setubal
Chaves v Famalicao
Farense v Sporting Braga

October 21
Penafiel v Farense
Salgueiros v Guimaraes
Boavista v Gil Vicente
Belenenses v Beira Mar
Estrela Amadora v Maritimo
x v Benfica
Nacional v Sporting Lisbon
Setubal v Porto
Famalicao v Tirsense
Sporting Braga v Chaves

October 28
Penafiel v Salgueiros
Guimaraes v Boavista
Gil Vicente v Belenenses
Beira Mar v Estrela Amadora
Maritimo v x
Benfica v Nacional
Sporting Lisbon v Setubal
Porto v Famalicao
Tirsense v Sporting Braga
Farense v Chaves

November 4
Salgueiros v Farense
Boavista v Penafiel
Belenenses v Guimaraes
Estrela Amadora v Gil Vicente
x v Beira Mar
Nacional v Maritimo
Setubal v Benfica
Famalicao v Sporting Lisbon
Sporting Braga v Porto
Chaves v Tirsense

November 11
Salgueiros v Boavista
Penafiel v Belenenses
Guimaraes v Estrela Amadora
Gil Vicente v x
Beira Mar v Nacional
Maritimo v Setubal
Benfica v Famalicao
Sporting Lisbon v Sporting Braga
Porto v Chaves
Farense v Tirsense

November 14
Boavista v Farense
Belenenses v Salgueiros
Estrela Amadora v Penafiel
x v Guimaraes
Nacional v Gil Vicente
Vicente Setubal v Beira Mar
Famalicao v Maritimo
Sporting Braga v Benfica
Chaves v Sporting Lisbon
Tirsense v Porto

November 18
Boavista v Belenenses
Salgueiros v Estrela Amadora
Penafiel v x
Guimaraes v Nacional
Gil Vicente v Setubal
Beira Mar v Famalicao
Maritimo v Sporting Braga
Benfica v Chaves
Sporting Lisbon v Tirsense
Farense v Porto

November 25
Belenenses v Farense
Estela Amadora v Boavista
x v Salgueiros
Nacional v Penafiel
Setubal v Guimaraes
Famalicao v Gil Vicente
Sporting Braga v Beira Mar
Chaves v Maritimo
Tirsense v Benfica
Porto v Sporting Lisbon

December 2
Belenenses v Estrela Amadora
Boavista v x
Salgueiros v Nacional
Penafiel v Setubal
Guimaraes v Famalicao
Gil Vicente v Sporting Braga
Beira Mar v Chaves
Maritimo v Tirsense
Benfica v Porto
Farense v Sporting Lisbon

December 9
Estrela Amadora v Farense
x v Belenenses
Nacional v Boavista
Setubal v Salgueiros
Famalicao v Penafiel
Sporting Braga v Guimaraes
Chaves v Gil Vicente
Tirsense v Beira Mar
Porto v Maritimo
Sporting Lisbon v Benfica

December 16
Estrela Amadora v x
belenenses v Nacional
Boavista v Setubal
Salgueiros v Famalico
Penafiel v Sporting Braga
Guimaraes v Chaves
Gil Vicente v Tirsense
Beira Mar v Porto
Maritimo v Sporting Lisbon
Farense v Benfica

December 23
Farense v x
Nacional v Estrela Amadora
Setubal v Belenenses
Famalicao v Boavista
Sporting Braga v Salgueiros
Chaves v Penafiel
Tirsense v Guimaraes
Porto v Gil Vicente
Sporting Lisbon v Beira Mar
Benfica v Maritimo

December 30
x v Nacional
Estrela Amadora v Setubal
Belenenses v Famalicao
Boavista v Sporting Braga
Salgueiros v Chaves
Penafiel v Tirsense
Guimaraes v Porto
Gil Vicente v Sporting Lisbon
Beira Mar v Benfica
Maritimo v Farense
x – No fixture.

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Ivic is the latest in Gil's hot-seat

WHEN a coach with impeccable references and considerable international prestige moves to another club, fans and media normally sit back, give the new boss time to work his oracle, and maybe pass provisional judgment at the end of the season.

In Spain, however, public opinion gives Tomislav Ivic little chance of surviving beyond Christmas.

The trouble, of course, is that the renowned Yugoslav has taken over at Atletico Madrid, where he becomes the NINTH coach to sit in the dug-out at the Vicente Calderon stadium since Jesus Gil became president in the summer of 1987.

Ivic appeared on the scene after Gil had decided, only five days before the season began, that Joaquin Peiro was no longer the man for the job. When Ron Atkinson, one of Gil's earlier victims, heard of the pre-season sacking, he shrugged and quipped: "Maybe he had a bad photocall."

Analysis

Gil's managerial turnover requires either extensive analysis or no comment. The table (below) says it all, proves that the average life-span under "Mad Max" – as Atkinson calls him – is around three months, and explains why Artur Jorge, coach at FC Porto and under a four-year contract as Portuguese national team manager, chose not to jump at the chance of a Gil-sized stopover in Madrid.

Ivic didn't exactly rush, either. After accepting the job he disappeared towards Yugoslavia and didn't take his first training session until September 5 – three days after Atletico (with Santos Ovejero as caretaker) had opened the season with a 1-1 draw in Valencia.

Meanwhile Gil and Peiro were failing to agree on the size of the golden handshake, so with Spanish regulations preventing a new coach from occupying the dug-out until the previous manager has been paid off, Ivic was obliged to watch the home game against Betis alongside Gil in the president's box, walkie-talkie in hand.

Gil ... making management into a merry-go-round.

Ivic ... out of various frying pans into Madrid's fire.

The new job is a stern challenge for the affable, multi-lingual 57-year-old Ivic, despite his impressive track record. His reputation is based firmly on his work at Ajax and Anderlecht, interspersed with briefer, less successful spells at Hajduk Split, Dynamo Zagreb, Olympiakos, Galatasaray and Ascoli.

In more recent years Ivic – who claims to work 24 hours a day – has consolidated his prestige in the difficult role of Artur Jorge's successor at FC Porto immediately after the club had won the Champions' Cup, and then had a difficult spell at Paris St.Germain.

His immediate success, leading the club to second place behind Marseille with a limited squad, was then diluted amid accusations of boring, defensive tactis.

At first glance, the defend-and-break game he imposed at PSG made him the wrong choice for an Atletico side front-heavy with virtually undroppable strikers and built on the criteria of Jesus Gil and technical secretary Ruben Cano, a man who has claimed to be behind all Gil's coaches but was, according to many of them, there only to slip the knife in.

Fortunately for Ivic, he started on the right foot.

"I am not here to impose a Yugolsav style," he told the players. "I am here to think in Spanish and devise a system suited to this squad."

His first selection was both diplomatic and adventurous – he fielded all four of his star attackers.

Portugal's Paulo Futre was ordered to spearhead the "mattress-makers" attack (and duly obliged with an extremely rare headed goal).Brazilian Baltazar, the European Bronze Boot winner two years ago, was told to operate a little deeper.

Spanish international Manola was pushed in to an attacking midfield role. And £2.3 million Austrian signing Gerhard Rodax played in an intermediary role and produced his second spectacular goal in two games.

Atletico scraped home 2-1 and Ivic was off to a gliding, if not flying, start.

Ivic's challenge is to forge a side capable of producing football attractive enough to placate Gil and consistent enough to wrestle honours away from Real and from a Barcelona side who have made an impressive start and, for the first time since Cruyff's arrival in 1988, look tactically compact enough to mount a serious challenge.

JESUS GIL'S HIT PARADE

Coach	Appointed	days
Cesar Luis Menotti	29/7/87	236
Armando Ufarte	22/3/88	21
Antonio Briones*	12/4/88	41
Jose Maria Maguregui	15/7/88	83
Antonio Briones*	6/10/88	7
Ron Atkinson	13/10/88	95
Colin Addison	17/1/89	146
Antonio Briones*	12/6/89	13
Joaquin Peiro	7/3/90	129
Santos Ovejero*	28/8/90	9
Tomislav Ivic	5/9/90	?

Close season not included; * caretaker manager

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

STIELIKE'S SWITCHES

THE Swiss media were jubilant after the national team's unexpected 3-1 victory against Austria in Vienna, in a preparatory match for the tough European Championship qualifying ties. It was their first away win over Austria in 15 attempts.

Switzerland made SIX substitutions at half-time, when they were a goal down, and goals from Kubilay Turkyilmaz (2) and Adrian Knup brought their victory.

Some experts described it as a turning point, but others warned that the opposition had been weakened by the absence of several players from Austria's World Cup squad.

Stielike ... tried 17 players in one game.

Switzerland's West German manager, Uli Stielike, can be pleased, especially after suggestions that "he has a backbone, but no team." Now that he has tried 17 players in one match, surely he must know his best formation.

Title-holders Grasshoppers and Lausanne were joint leaders in the championship after eight rounds, with Sion a point behind.

Average

Lausanne's Czechoslovak import, Milan Fryda, is rated the best foreigner. Brazilian Mauro Galvao (Lugano), Dutchman Rene Van Eck (Lucerne) and Paraguayan Jose Cardoso (St.Gallen) are considered no more than average.

Newly-promoted FC Zurich are doing well – described as "the best newcomers for 17 years" ... "the fairest team in the league" ... "the most exciting, not bound by rigid systems" ... and "the most attractive of all in away matches, drawing 10,675 fans on average."

Zurich, who have been champions nine times and cup-winners five times, are certainly a big hit under their German manager, Herbert Neumann.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

Ridvan may have to quit

Ridvan ... unlucky devil.

ONE of Turkey's top performers, Ridvan Dilmen, may be giving up soccer.

He feels that his knee ligament injury, subject of four operations, could be beyond repair.

Ridvan, known as "The little devil" in Turkey, is now 28 and recently returned from the United States where he went for treatment on the advice of former West German goalkeeper Toni Schumacher.

He claims that mistakes were made in an earlier operation, and that has not improved his prospects.

Fenerbahce manager Guus Hiddink remains optimistic, but the feeling is that Ridvan may well decide to pack up.

Hiddink has other problems, too. He has been playing without a libero this season, but the "flat four" back line have been making far too many mistakes.

And Marcel Brandts, signed to plug some the gaps, has gone back to Holland because his wife did not like life in Turkey.

Mustafa Denizli, back in charge of Galasary after Siggi Held's dismissal, has made several changes to his personnel but is struggling to get the tactics right.

Ability

The worst performance was a 5-2 defeat by Hiddink's Fenerbahce, a performance summed up by Denzli's acid comment: "They weren't as generous as we were."

Gordon Milne at Besiktas seems a bit sceptical about the tactical vogue. "Players make their own system," he says. "It depends on their ability.

"I don't want to occupy their minds with systems they have never used before. If one suits, okay. If it doesn't who suffers?"

He could have answered his own question: the manager!

MALTA FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION
October 6
Zurrieq v Rabat A.
Naxxar L. v Hamrun S.

October 9
Floriana v Sliema W.
Valletta v Hibernians

October 13
Hibernians v Zurrieq
Valletta v B'kara

October 14
Hamrun S. v Floriana
Rabat A. v Naxxar L.

November 4
B'kara v Sliema
Zurrieq v Valletta

November 10
Floriana v Rabat A.
Sliema W. v Hamrun S.

November 11
Naxxar L. v Hibernians
Zurrieq v B'kara

November 17
Hibernians v Floriana
Valletta v Naxxar L.

November 18
Rabat A. v Sliema W.
B'kara v Hamrun S.

December 1
Naxxar L. v Zurrieq
Hamrun S. v Rabat A.

December 2
Sliema W. v Hibernians
Floriana v Valletta

December 8
Hamrun S. v Hibernians
Rabat A. v B'kara

December 9
Floriana v Zurrieq
Sliema W. v Valletta

December 29
B'kara v Naxxar L.
Hibernians v Rabat A.

December 30
Zurrieq v Sliema W.
Valleta v Hamrun S.

January 6
Naxxar L. v Floriana
Zurrieq v Hamrun S.

January 12
Valletta v Rabat A.
B'kara v Hibernians

January 26
Naxxar L. v Sliema W.
Floriana v B'kara

January 27
Hibernians v Valletta
Rabat A. v Zurrieq

February 2
Hamrun S. v Naxxar L.
Sliema W. v Floriana

February 24
B'kara v Valletta
Zurrieq v Hibernians

March 2
Naxxar L. v Rabat A.
Floriana v Hamrun S.

March 3
Sliema W. v B'kara
Valletta v Zurrieq

March 23
Hamrun S. v Sliema W.
Hibernians v Naxxar L.

March 24
Rabat A. v Floriana
B'kara v Zurrieq

March 30
Naxxar L. v Valletta
Floriana v Hibernians

March 31
Sliema W. v Rabat A.
Hamrun S. v B'kara

April 6
Valletta v Floriana
Hibernians v Sliema W.

EAST GERMANY BY BOB VAUGHAN

League structure is still in doubt

THE DEBATES on the future structure of German soccer are still going on.

Two seems the likely number of GDR Oberliga clubs to join the successor to the current West German Federal League (BL 1) but still has to be confirmed as the number in the future Second Division (BL 2) from the East.

Two clubs will be demoted from the Oberliga at the end of the season and the two promoted, one from each section of the Liga, will join a number of Oberliga clubs in the play-offs to decide who will take the six places in BL 2.

What role economic considerations will play is another question, one viewed with suspicion by West German clubs. They have to suffer DFB (West German FA) scrutiny to obtain their annual licence to play full-time professional soccer, something that will be new in the East.

So the viability of an "All German" BL 2 is in doubt and so is the prospect of East German contenders joining the professional ranks, especially those without a powerful sponsor come next June and the play-offs.

The 41st and last GDR Championship began with some shocks. Dynamo Dresden went down 4-1 to Stahl in Brandenburg, while Cottbus, now FC Energie, took both points from FCB in Berlin, a popular result with the football world. Only 1,487 spectators attended.

Alliance

In the Leipzig derby on Lok's ground, FC Sachsen – formed from the unexpected alliance of Chemie Bohlen and Chemie Leipzig – drew 9,500 spectators. Lindner's 70th-minute penalty decided the game and meant two points for Lok. Rene Mueller signed for FC Sachsen in time to play but finished on the losing side.

There was one shock in the first round of what will be the last East German Cup when Schwerin, the Cup-winners' Cup representative, lost at Rahtenow.

Schwerin went to pieces after conceding a 90th-minute equaliser, and the final score was SV Optik Rahtenow 6, PSV Schwerin 3!

PSV manager Manfred Radtke, who faces a European encounter with Austria Wien, said: "Bast's sending-off was no excuse for the collapse."

Geyer ... the breaks have gone against him.

All 14 Oberliga clubs went through, 14 Liga sides did so too, and there are three County League survivors to join those with a bye to round two.

On the international front it is now clear that the GDR's last match will be with West Germany in Leipzig in November. A friendly also has been agreed with Belgium, in place of the cancelled European qualifying match.

National coach Eduard Geyer is feeling bitter. Last year he gave up being manager at Dynamo Dresden to become responsible full-time for the national squad. World Cup qualification had been scuppered by his predecessors before the "last chance" in Vienna. Now he is going to be out of work.

Ironically the relatively inexperienced "Dixie" Doerner, a member of Geyer's staff responsible for youth international work has been offered a post at the DFB.

Geyer seems not to have lost his sense of humour, and says he will just have to keep on looking!

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

SLOVAN SET EARLY PACE

WHILE interest remained high in the progress of Jozef Venglos at Aston Villa and the Moravian football world awaited the tie with Banik Ostrava, the domestic programme began with great names of the past, Slovan and Dukla, setting the pace.

Slovan sandwiched a 3-2 win at Cheb, now under the new non-Army label, SKP Union, and without sponsorship, between two 4-0 wins over Banska Bystrica and Inter.

Sparta's spluttering start bodes ill for the Champions' Cup tie with Spartak Moscow. Olomouc were overcome in front of 9,720 spectators on the opening day but only half as many went to the Letna for the draw with Dunajska Streda three days after the 107th Prague derby at The Eden, also drawn.

Slavia led 2-1 at half-time but Vaclav Jezek's side had turned things round by the 71st minute through goals by Trittschuh and Novotny, only for Silhavy to equalise in the final seconds.

Struggling

The match was televised and a certain Dr Havelange, on FIFA business in Prague, was among a very poor crowd of 4,733. Oh for the days of ten times that number, Planicka, Puc, Bican and Co!

Brno, a tip for relegation, and UEFA representatives Inter are struggling, but promoted SKP Spartak Hradec Kralove's three goals and one against brought five points. Could it be a repeat of 1960, a championship year for the club?

In the Second Division, Plzen and Liberec lead the Czech League and Humenne from the Russian border head the Slovak section, followed by Jednota VSS of Kosice.

Off the field the "Velvet Revolution" continues, with players at all levels seeking new clubs. Some 40 First and Second Division players have moved West, plus many veterans and lower league performers.

Ivo Knoflicek

On the international front, new manager Milan Macala will have to begin his travels to see how his proteges are doing abroad.

He starts with a home European championship qualifier against Iceland, but faces a sterner test in Paris.

Macala will have to check on Hasek at Racing Strasbourg, Kadlec (Kaiserslautern), Knoflicek and Kozian (St Pauli), Luhovy (Sporting Gijon), Moravcik (St. Etienne), Skuhravy (Genoa) and possibly Stejskal if Sparta Prague make an early European exit and let him go to Queens Park Rangers.

CZECHOSLOVAK FIXTURES

Oct 7
Cheb v Bohemians
Inter v Banska B.
Olomouc v Dukla
Slavia v Vitkovice
Dunajska S. v Presov
Ostrava v Brno
Sparta v Slovan
Nitra v Hradec K.

Oct 21
Bohemians v Hradec K.
Slovan v Nitra
Brno v Sparta
Vitkovice v Dunajska S.
Dukla Praha v Slavia
Banska B. v Olomouc
Cheb v Inter

Oct 28
Inter v Bohemians
Olomouc v Cheb
Slavia v Banska B.
Dunajska S. v Dukla Praha
Ostrava v Vitkovice
Sparta v Presov
Nitra v Brno
Hradec K. v Slovan

Nov 4
Bohemians v Slovan
Brno v Hradec K.
Presov v Nitra
Vitkovice v Sparta
Dukla Praha v Ostrava
Banska B. v Dunajska S.
Cheb v Slavia
Inter v Olomouc

Nov 18
Olomouc v Bohemians
Slavia v Inter
Dunajska S. v Cheb
Ostrava v Banska B.
Sparta v Dukla Praha
Nitra v Vitkovice
Hradec K. v Presov
Slovan v Brno

Nov 25
Bohemians v Brno
Presov v Slovan
Vitkovice v Hradec K.
Dukla Praha v Nitra
Banska B. v Sparta
Cheb v Ostrava
Inter v Dunajska S.
Olomouc v Slavia

Dec 2
Slavia v Bohemians
Dunajska S. v Olomouc
Ostrava v Inter
Sparta v Cheb
Nitra v Banska B.
Hradec K. v Dukla Praha
Slovan v Vitkovice
Brno v Presov

Dec 9
Presov v Bohemians
Vitkovice v Brno
Dukla Praha v Slovan
Banska B. v Hradec K.
Cheb v Nitra
Inter v Sparta
Olomouc v Ostrava
Slavia v Dunajska S.

ROMANIA

'Unknown' takes national job

THE trend towards young, track-suited managers has not yet reached Romania.

Indeed, the newly-constituted heirachy's first appointment was exactly the opposite, with 58-year-old Gheorge Constantin being given the job of coach to the national squad.

Apart from his age, remarkably high for a newcomer, Constantin has had only ONE season in the top flight, with Sportul Studentesc.

His assistant was another surprise choice – Gino Iogulescu, who has had as little experience as his boss.

The pair face immediate problems, with so many of the likely team scattered around Europe.

And they have little time to prepare for the qualifying ties in the European championship, in which Scotland and Bulgaria appear to be the strongest opponents.

The wholesale reorganisation of the FRF after the political upheaval should lead to a more democratic and professional approach.

Former FRF secretary Micea Sandu has become president, and Mark Popescu and Mugurel Florescu are the two vice-presidents.

Florescu is Romania's Procurator General, and took part in the Ceausescu trial. His presence at FRF is expected to provide muscle and influence – and a guarantee of proper dealing.

A former player, Bella Kassai, has succeeded Sandu as secretary.

Two wins in the first two games put outsiders Corvinul Hunedoara on top of the table. They beat Bihor 3-0 away and Brasov 1-0 at home.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

OGRIS FEE IS A RECORD

Andreas Ogris

AUSTRIAN football, shorn of real talent, suffered another blow when international striker Andreas Ogris left FK Austria for newly-promoted Espanol Barcelona in Spain.

The fee for the 25-year-old red-haired Ogris, according to Spanish sources, was £1.8 million, making him the most expensive Austrian footballer in history.

He is the second big star to leave the country since the World Cup, following Gerhard Rodax, who went to Atletico Madrid.

His departure is a bitter blow, softened only by the financial aspect, to FK Austria. They were hoping to mount a serious challenge for the championship, last won in 1986.

They are now looking for a replacement, but have hit problems with imports. Two Lithuanians, Ivanauskas and Karbekovas from Zhalguiris Vilnius, are still waiting for release papers to come through from Moscow.

Title-holders FC Tirol are hardly unhappy over the weakening of their biggest rivals. They were forced to give up some top class "oldies" and are increasingly banking on youth with ambition.

In Salzburg the talk is of another Austria, the local outfit who celebrated a 5-1 win over St.Polten with four goals from West German Oliver Bierhoff, 22, formerly with Hamburg and Borussia Monchengladbach.

After nine rounds, Tirol were leading the table jointly with surprising Salzburg, with FK Austria and Rapid one and two points behind.

The 3-1 home defeat by Switzerland in Vienna was not taken too badly.

Seven regular internationals were missing on account of injury or suspension and sweeper Bruno Pezzey, 35, who had hung up his boots and hadn't played in the national team for nearly three years, was given a run of 42 minutes in this, his testimonial match.

Fans who could prove they supported the national side at the World Cup in Italy paid only half-price admission.

POLAND

HUTNIK CRACOW, promoted to the first division, took a surprise lead after scoring four times against Zawisa.

Zaglebie Lubin lost top place after being held 1-1 by Katowice. Swierczewski put the hosts ahead and there seemed little change of Lubin's replying until confusion in the Katowice defence resulted in a handling offence on the line, and Kujawa slotted home the penalty

Lech's luck at last changed. Motor Lublin were seen off 4-0 and already look booked for relegation, with no points and no goals. Newcomer Gebura hit three of the goals.

Perhaps he should be considered for the European qualifier at Wembley, given the 0-0 result in the Paris friendly and the problem the national team have had in scoring goals in recent competitive matches.

Gornik's 3-1 home win over Legia was a sparkling encounter, but fewer than 6,000 spectators saw it.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

ELKJAER'S GOOD START IN A NEW ROLE

MANY players have dropped back on passing the age of 30, aiming to spin out their career in defence rather than carry on the more difficult job up front.

Retiring is the hardest game of all for sportmen, and Preben Elkjaer is no exception.

Elkjaer, now 33, was a bull of an attacker with two great virtues – strength and an eye for goal.

Now he is trying to adapt to a new life as a sweeper with struggling Vejle, where he signed on his return from a stint as a media relations man during the World Cup.

Manager Ebbe Skovdahl knew he was gambling on veteran Elkjaer. Many people in the game treated the move as a joke.

But with big Preben at the back, Vejle gained their first win in 10 league games, and followed that with a draw in their next match.

What a pity that the improvement should be marred by a rash of transfer requests. Players seeking moves include John Larsen and Henrik Risom, both internationals, and Johnny Molby, cousin of Liverpool's Jan Molby.

There are no such problems for championship leaders Brondby, under the managership of Morten Olsen. They were six points clear of the pack after 15 rounds, having conceded only six goals.

Two imports from Nigeria, Ushe Ukechukwu and Friday Elahor, have settled in well to life in the suburbs of Copenhagen.

They were persuaded to move to Denmark after reading about the Danish national side in World Soccer's sister magazine, Shoot.

Rent Christensen, top scorer with 12 goals so far, made a dramatic international debut when he scored the only goal six minutes from time to beat Sweden in a friendly.

Christensen played alongside last season's top scorer, Miklos Molnar, who had a brilliant start with new club Standard Liege in Belgium. Molnar, who had an unsuccessful trial with Chelsea last year, hit five goals in his first two games for Standard.

Sadly, former international Per Frimann had to announce his retirement after a long battle against injury.

The little midfielder, who failed in a comeback bid with Brondby, will be remembered over the DBU clanger that prevented Denmark from playing in the 1984 Olympics.

He took part in a qualifier although ineligible, and the victory was turned into a defeat that cost the Danes a trip to Los Angeles.

There is even sadder news – the death of 20-year-old Ronnie Frederiksen in Switzerland, where he had just been released by Young Boys.

Frederiksen was once seen as the brightest young talent in Denmark, but he fell away after going to the Swiss club when only 16.

Elkjaer ... now he's back in defence.

FINLAND BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Young Jari looks likely

THE FINNISH national team, coached by Jukka Vakkila, began their preparations for the European championship qualifiers with a 1-1 draw with Czechoslovakia.

Although the Czechs were without some of their key players, notably Kubik and Chovanec, a young Finnish team surprised most local experts with their display.

Their goal was scored by Petri Jarvinen of Kuusysi and was created by the 19-year-old Jari Litmanen, who plays for Kuusysi's local rivals from Lahti, Reipas.

Litmanen is rated among the best Finnish prospects in years. This was his sixth full cap, and he was second in the league's scoring tables with 14 goals. Although not very quick, Litmanen – whose father Olavi also was a Finnish international – has plenty of skill and vision. Rarely has a teenaged player dominated league matches in the way he has.

Kuusysi topped the league before the play-off rounds.

For the first time drawn play-off matches will be decided by penalty-kick competitions.

Vakkila ... coach.

Kostadinov ... now at Porto

BULGARIA

Federation are too tolerant

CRITICS are claiming that the Bulgarian Federation have been much too lenient in recent matters.

The chief problem concerned the transfer of the Under-21 squad captain, Kalaydiev, who moved from his original club, Beroe, to CSKA.

Nothing wrong with that – but hardly had he unpacked his bags than he was sold again, this time to Neuchatel Xamax in Switzerland.

A handy financial settlement brought about this amicable arrangement – and now there appears to be a possible repeat, with a deal between CSKA and Greek club Larissa for star forward Balakov.

He has been suspended for a year because he had signed for two clubs, but the deal still appears likely to go through.

The Federation also put cash before league affairs, allowing CSKA and Slavia to bring forward their derby match to an earlier date, thus allowing Slavia to play against Bruges in Belgium, and the champions to go to Spain for a tournament involving Real Madrid and Valencia.

Showing

The Sofia derby proved to be a dull draw, the main action being the showing of the red card to Slavia defender Matchev and the departure of CSKA's Nankov, on a stretcher.

CSKA's mounting problems – the loss of Stoytchov to Barcelona, Kostadinov to Porto, and likely transfers of Valov, Janchev and Georgyev, the banning for a year of new goalkeeper Stoyanov and defender Outoukov from all competitions, and the Balakov business – were reflected in the early results.

After Slavia there was a 2-1 defeat at Sliven and a 1-0 setback at Stara Zagora that sent CSKA sliding down the early table.

Levski led on goal average from Lok following a 3-3 draw between them.

Now it remains to be seen if CSKA's poor form continues in the Champions' Cup, whether new sponsor, Robert Maxwell, can boost Slavia, and how strong the Etar-led provincial challenge will prove.

Their fans are keen enough to have mounted a massive demonstration, accusing the FA and Sofia clubs of complicity in signing and then transferring abroad the best players from out of town.

WEST GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

QUIET START FOR VOGTS

WEST GERMANY'S new national team manager, Berti Vogts, was guarded in his reactions to the 1-1 draw with Portugal in Lisbon.

It was his first match in charge and the first outing for his men since the World Cup triumph in Rome.

At least Vogts was spared the fate of his illustrious predecessor, Franz Beckenbauer, whose team on his debut six years ago lost 3-1 at home to Argentina.

But the new manager was not entirely satisfied with the performance of some players, although he found a valid excuse. "The Italian exiles lacked competitive match practice, because their championship was not due to start for another 11 days," he said. "This match came much too early. In future I will not accept a fixture in August."

The Germans controlled the first half, but as soon as captain Lothar Matthaus, scorer of their goal, was substituted because of a pulled thigh muscle, they lost their rhythm.

The heart had been torn out of the midfield even before then. Thomas Hassler, Pierre Littbarski and Olaf Thon were all out through injury, and sweeper Klaus Augenthaler has retired from the national side.

Vogts could be pleased with sweeper Thomas Berthold, while the much-vaunted Andy Moller disappointed but will be given a further chance as a schemer.

The only new cap was Manfred Binz of Eintracht Frankfurt, who replaced Matthaus in midfield, although he is a trained libero. Up front Rudi Voller and Karl-Heinz Riedle started the match, with Jurgen Klinsmann replacing Voller at half-time.

Only 20,000 spectators turned up in Benfica's magnificent 120,000 capacity Estadio da Luz.

The national squad could be strengthened by players from East Germany when the two countries are unified in the coming months, Matthias Sammer, Ulf Kirsten, Andreas Thom and Rico Steinmann will be candidates, and Vogts also could be interested in goalkeeper Perry Brautigam.

On the eve of the first international a new controversy arose following an interview with the chief of the league's executive committee, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, on the subject of a possible ban on "mercenaries" in the national side.

Emigrate

Mayer-Vorfelder claims that top stars who emigrate to Italy increase their market value because they still play in the international matches, and continue to earn money from West German sponsors. If the move abroad meant the end of their international career, then some would almost certainly decide to stay at home.

"I can understand those who want to make more money, but in truth they can become better footballers just as well in the Bundesliga," said Mayer-Vorfelder. "Perhaps we should impose an age limit for those wishing to leave the country. My aim is to keep the stars at home.

"This can be achieved by channeling the money earned by players from sponsorship and promotion and creating a fund from which the FA would offer the prospective emigres extra money to stay here."

Title-holders Bayern Munich ovecame their poor start and took over at the top. But inconsistent performances prompted team captain Klaus Augenthaler to complain: "We didn't bargain for such an indifferent beginning."

Thomas Berthold

Berti Vogts

Goalkeeper Raimond Aumann added: "We are constantly talking of winning the European Cup, yet we could only get a 0-0 draw at St.Pauli."

Team manager Jupp Heynckes is still unsure about his best attacking duo. He started with the Dane Brian Laudrup and the Yugoslav Radmilo Mihajlovic, while Roland Wohlfarth and the Scot Alan McInally sat on the bench.

Mihaljlovic has been playing better than last term, but still doesn't score. Laudrup, on his own admission, is only "firing at 50 per cent capacity".

He moans that he is being marked much more tightly than when was with Uerdingen. "That is normal when one plays for Bayern," says Heynckes. All strikers are unhappy if the midfielders do not provide enough useful passes.

Hans Dorfner, however, retorts: "With Laudrup one never knows whether he wants a through ball, or a short pass."

Olaf Thon is out for two months damaged knee ligaments, but Bayern still draw the crowds. Their match with Stuttgart (2-1) attracted a full house of 73,153.

The recent directives issued to referees caused a flood of bookings. In the first three rounds 100 yellow cards were shown – a record. Ten years ago at this stage there were only 51.

The Footballer of the Year, not unexpectedly is Lothar Matthaus, who polled 226 votes, Andy Brehme had 110, Guido Buchwald 88, Jurgen Klnsmann 67, Thomas Hassler 41 and Pierre Littbarski 31.

SOVIET UNION

KIEV LAND IN DOUBLE TROUBLE

Oleg Kuznetsov

DYNAMO KIEV are in trouble with the USSR Federation after playing two men against regulations.

The pair, Sergei Yuran and Oleg Kuznetsov, had both received three warnings so far this season and should have been automatically rested.

Kiev, however, fielded both in a league match and a cup-tie – and they are paying the penalty.

The Federation have ordered that the 0-0 league game be awarded to the opponents, Moscow Dynamo, 3-0, and that the cup result be reversed.

Kiev are appealing, and claim that at the time of the matches the referees and other officials did not know the rules, which had been recently changed.

The national squad went to Italy for training and won a practice match in Modena, 2-0. Coach Bishovets must aim for nothing less than two victories in European qualifying games, against Norway and Italy.

SWEDEN BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Dan the money man

STRUGGLING Malmo FF broke the Swedish transfer record by signing former international forward Dan Corneliusson, 29, from Switzerland's Wettingen for £300,000.

Corneliusson, a UEFA Cup winner with IFK Gothenburg in 1982, has been playing abroad for the past seven years with Stuttgart, Como and Wettingen. He and Carl Shutt on loan from Leeds United, made an immediate impact – even without playing! Both were absent as MFF beat Halmstad 5-0 and Orgryte 3-0, thanks to a hat-trick by Martin Dahlin.

IFK Gothenburg have been topping the table They are well organised at the back, and in midfield Everton reject Stefan Rehn has been in an outstanding form. Rehn now looks certain for an international recall.

Norrkoping, who started the season so well, have been rocking after selling World Cup star Tomas Brolin to Parma of Italy. They have dismissed coach Jorgen Augustsson to accommodate former player Hakan Pettersson.

Poor Olle Nordin has now returned to Valerengen of Oslo, the club he left in 1986 to take over the Swedish national team.

Arrests

Valerengen are facing relegation and several papers, who openly blamed Nordin for the flop in Italy, are now drawing juicy headlines from the coach's latest hardships.

Yet only a few months ago Nordin could do nothing wrong in the eyes of the Swedish press.

The Stockholm derby between Djurgarden and AIK led to over 30 arrests, among them several members of the Black Army, a notorious section of AIK's supporters.

That's a worrying thought in the build-up to the 1992 European Championships.

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HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

Talented Tom is killed at 23

HOLLAND'S own George Best will not have the chance to show if he could emulate the Irishman's on-field skill.

Tom Krommendijk, who seemed to have some of Best's talent – and a similar lifestyle – died in a road accident after the first game of the new season. He was only 23, and will be remembered as a player who might – just – have touched greatness.

Krommendijk did not play in Twente Enschede's match, away to Roda Kerkrade.

He was on the bench, unfit, as his team won 2-1. The coach drove the players back to Enschede, where they chatted happily about their good start.

At 1:45 next morning, talented Tom got in his car to drive home. At 4:30 a.m. a passer-by found the car at the side of the road, two wheels in a canal. Krommendijk had died of a broken neck.

His career started at Wageningen, in the Dutch lower division, where he attracted the attention of Leo Beenhakker's Real Madrid. He signed a contract with PSV Eindhoven, but a few days later he tore a cartilage.

PSV took him on trial, then – fearing that his injury had caused permanent damage – they let him go.

He returned to Wageningen, joined AZ Alkmaar, and a few majestic matches later moved up to Feyenoord. After a brief spell on loan to Cercle Bruges he went to Twente...and had the accident. He scored 31 goals in 94 matches in the Dutch league.

In July, in an interview, he pledged to realise his immense ability. The headline above the story, sickeningly appropriate, was "Tom Krommendijk's Last Chance."

When Feyenoord were in training camp, he had escaped down a drainpipe for a night on the town, and he made a habit of not turning up to his club's practices.

As Marcel Peeper, his friend and new team-mate observed: "Sometimes he's been a meatball. With his ability, he should be earning £100,000 with PSV, instead of playing for Twente." Ironically, Peeper's girlfriend was killed in a car accident last year.

This summer Krommendijk seemed to be on his way to fulfilling the boast he made after the European Championship final of 1988: "In two years I'll be playing for Holland."

He went very close. In the autumn of 1987, the Dutch national side played a friendly against the Under-21s. The kids won 5-2, mainly thanks to Krommendijk, who scored twice. Some suggested that Rinus Michels should include him in the full national side – but it has never been Michels' custom to listen to advice.

Finish

Twente topped the league, with FC Groningen and PSV Eindhoven, after three took five points from the first three matches.

Twente are aiming to finish third for the fourth successive time, Groningen hope to stop them, while PSV want to win the League, Cup and European Cup-Winners' Cup, and to stop quarrelling.

Normally, fans react with apathy to the start of the Dutch season. This year, though, despite Holland's failure at the World Cup, there was a mood of anticipation.

SVV Schiedam-Feyenoord, a new Rotterdam derby, drew 27,000 on the first day of the season. The league has perked up: Ajax, Feyenoord and PSV have all started well, yet have dropped points because the other sides have improved too.

Many foreign players have arrived to raise the calibre. There are two reasons for the immigration: the revolutions of 1989 freed Eastern Europeans to go west, and increased sponsorship has at last allowed Dutch clubs to offer decent salaries. The Dutch used to be the worst-paid footballers in Western Europe.

Romanian internationals Giga Popescu and Ovidiu Sabau have joined PSV and Feyenoord respectively. Both became mainstays of their sides within two or three matches. They are only 22 but are experienced internationals, inexpensive and eager to impress. Their like hardly exists in the West.

Vitesse Arnhem have finally completed the transfer of Sergei Krutov from CSKA Moscow. Vitesse's chairman, Karel Aalbers, has business connections in Russia and is a friend of Boris Yeltsin. In the next couple of years, this could well prove crucial to the club.

Even tiny Emmen, in the first division, have signed an East German Olympic international, Jens Pahlke.

Three Antipodeans have turned up in the South of Holland. Roda Kerkrade have discovered the Australian internationals Graham Arnold and Gary van Egmond, and striker Fred de Jong went to Fortuna Sittard from New Zealand. These are players of power rather than finesse, who live out their national stereotypes: after a wild night on the town, Roda's Dutch players nicknamed Arnold and Van Egmond "Crocodile Dundee".

De Jong's teammate at Fortuna, Henk Duut, had a haemorrhage in a pre-season friendly and may never play again. He is still suffering from poor co-ordination, for example when stirring tea with a spoon, and is afraid that heavy exercise will provoke another attack.

REP of IRELAND BY SEAN CREEDON

ALDRIDGE MIGHT BE OUT

JACK CHARLTON will be bidding for a hat-trick when the Republic of Ireland open their European Championship campaign against Turkey in Dublin.

Since being appointed manager four years ago, Big Jack has led the Irish to two major tournaments – the 1988 European Championship finals and this year's World Cup finals.

But qualification for Sweden '92 will be very difficult with only one country going through from each group, and the Irish need to do some rebuilding.

The Turkey tie will be the first big game on the now lush Lansdowne Road surface. Charlton experimented in the 1-0 win over Morocco last month, but is likely to revert to the old reliables as the Irish bid to extend their unbeaten run to 22 games.

The only player whose place is in real doubt is John Aldridge. He was left out of the squad for the Morocco game and could now give way to David Kelly, who hit his fifth goal in seven games last month.

Dennis Irwin is unlikely to dislodge Chris Morris at right-back, but don't be surprised if Kevin Moran is recalled as cover for central defence. Mick McCarthy, David O'Leary and Steve Staunton have not been first choice for their club lately.

Up front it's still a toss up between Quinn and Cascarino. Quinn started against the Moroccans, but I feel that the Villa ace will probably partner Kelly against the Turks.

Friendly

Charlton has asked the FAI to arrange a friendly for February 6 next year. They have lined up a game against Denmark in Dublin for May 22, and the Irish are likely to undertake a tour of the United States at the end of the season.

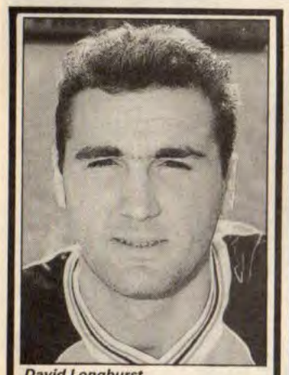
On the domestic front, Waterford United were the first club to sack their manager. Johnny Matthews got the boot on the eve of the club's opening game in the Premier Division. His crime? Telling a local newspaper that the players had not been paid for pre-season friendlies and League Cup games!

Another former Waterford favourite, Shamie Coad, is the new boss.

John Aldridge challenged by Italy's Paulo Maldini. Now his Eire place is in doubt.

DIARY

World Soccer's global news service conducted by Keir Radnedge



David Longhurst.

OBITUARY

DAVID LONGHURST: The York City striker collapsed from a heart condition and died, aged 25, during the fourth division match against Lincoln. Longhurst had played previously for Nottingham Forest, Halifax, Northampton and Peterborough. Black armbands were worn by players throughout the league the following Saturday as a mark of respect for Longhurst, who was the first fatality in a league game for 63 years. York have launched a public appeal for a new stand at the Shipton Street end of the Bootham Crescent ground, to be called the David Longhurst Stand.

OMERO TOGNON: Former Italy and Milan centre half who died at the age of 66. Tognon was born on March 3, 1924. He began his career with Padova and transferred to Milan, for whom he played 336 games, in 1945. He won the Latin Cup with Milan as well as one championship and played 14 times for Italy, including the 1954 World Cup finals. Tognon provided a major influence on Italian football long after retiring: he was the man who discovered record goal-scorer Gigi Riva.

TOM KROMMENDIJK: The Twente Enschede forward was killed in a car crash on his way home from a league match, aged 23. Krommendijk played previously for Wageningen and Feyenoord and had played for Holland at youth, under-21 and Olympic level.

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

AUSTRIA: National manager Pepi Hickersberger includes only 12 of his World Cup 22 in the squad to play Switzerland. Also included is Bruno Pezzey, selected to complete his playing career in one last international.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht say that Yugoslav veteran Milan Jankovic is threatening to quit the game rather than accept a transfer to Castellon of Spain, and that Iceland international Arnor Gudjohsen "has vanished" in a row over a new contract. General manager Michel Verschueren says: "It's the same old song. Every year he tells us what we propose is a starvation salary but I don't think £125,000 is all that bad."

CAMEROON: World Cup stars Stephen Tataw and Thomas Libih are revealerd as transfer targets for Scottish club Partick Thistle.

SWEDEN: Djurgarden set a league scoring record when they thrash local rivals Hammarby 9-1.

UNITED STATES: Six former officers of the USSF call on FIFA to inquire into the role of press officer Guido Tognoni in the run-up to the election of Alan Rothenberg as new USSF president.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

SWITZERLAND: FIFA officials welcome the election of Alan Rothenberg as new president of the United States federation.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich are held to a second successive draw, this time 0-0 by St Pauli.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

ACTION: France and Poland draw 0-0 in a Paris friendly ... in the South American club cup second round there are aggregate victories (and thus quarter-final places) for Atletico Nacional, Emelec, Universidad Catolica, Independiente and Vasco da Gama – though Vasco beat Colo Colo of Chile only in a penalty shoot-out.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht sign World Cup fullback Michel De Wolf from Kortrijk.

WEST GERMANY: Veteran defender Manni Kaltz rejoins Hamburg from Bordeaux, where he is surplus to import requirements.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

ACTION: New Zealand beat China 2-1 in Wellington.

BRAZIL: Paulo Roberto Falcao is appointed new national manager and states his intention of using only home-based players.

ENGLAND: Derby offer a trial to American World Cup defender John Doyle.

ITALY: Diego Maradona is stopped on the autostrada and forced to abandon his luxury Ferrari because he was driving while not in possession of the necessary documentation.

ROMANIA: One-time league top scorer Gheorghe Constantin is appointed new national manager.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

ITALY: Lazio persuade Argentina's Pedro Troglio to transfer to Tenerife of Spain, thus clearing the way for their own capture of Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Pereira.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

SPAIN: Real Madrid's costly new signing from Barcelona, Luis Milla, is told he will miss most of the season after a lengthy operation to repair ligaments in his left knee.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

ACTION: Barcelona win the prestigious Teresa Herrera trophy in Coruna, defeating Benfica 2-0 in the final. Real Madrid win the Palma trophy with 1-0 defeat of Mallorca.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

SWITZERLAND: St Gallen's Chilean top scorer, Ivano Zamorano, flies to Spain after agreement is reached on his shock transfer to Sevilla.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

ACTION: Sweden beat Norway 2-1 in Stavanger in their first match since the World Cup flop.

FRANCE: The public prosecutor's office announces a judicial investigation into the finances of Bordeaux. Opposition politicians claim the club is £20million in the red,

SPAIN: Bernd Schuster, transfer-listed by Real Madrid, attacks both president Mendoza and coach Tosback for "not treating me fairly."

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

AUSTRIA: Admira Wacker sign former Yugoslav international sweeper, Marko Elsner from Nice.

FRANCE: Nantes' Argentine World Cup star, Jorge Burruchaga, learns he needs a further operation on the right knee he damaged two years ago. This latest injury could mean him missing the rest of the first half of the season.

MOROCCO: Abdellah Naciri is appointed new national manager of Morocco.

PORTUGAL: Union de Madeira force a draw with Feirense to win the promotion play-off tournament.

SPAIN: Now Real Madrid win the Trofeo Naranja, thrashing hosts Valencia 7-1 in the decisive match of the triangular tournament. Losada scores three, Llorente and Villaroya two each.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

FRANCE: Crisis club Bordeaux force a goalless draw away to Monaco. Meanwhile Monaco obtain permission to switch their next match, the derby against Nice, to Nice while work goes ahead to try to save the battered Monaco pitch ... Marseille skipper Jean-Pierre Papin says how much he is looking forward to the arrival of Franz Beckenbauer "with no disrespect to Gerard Gili."

Pedro Troglio.

SPAIN: Real Madrid sign up Otaysa, Nissan car agents in Spain, as new sponsors.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

ACTION: Marseille draw 1-1 away to Nantes in France ... in West Germany Borussia Dortmund suffer a second home defeat, beaten this time 2-0 by Kaiserslautern.

ARGENTINA: Corrientes agree terms to sign Uruguay's World Cup reserve goalkeeper, Javier Zeoli, from Tenerife.

EAST GERMANY: Gunter Schneider, senior East German soccer official with UEFA appointments, is accused of having worked for the secret police, the 'Stasi', by the old international Peter Ducke.

HOLLAND: Twente Enschede star Tom Krommendijk is killed in a car crash.

SPAIN: Barcelona goalkeeper Zubizarreta is fined £7,500 by FIFA for exceeding regulations concerning sponsorship logos on his gloves at the World Cup finals.

WEST GERMANY: Erwin Kostedde, former West German international, is arrested by police after an incident in a casino.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

ACTION: The League of Ireland draw 2-2 with Australia in Dublin.

ITALY: Milan star Frank Rijkaard says he does not want to play international football any more for Holland.

SPAIN: Joaquin Peiro is sacked as coach of Atletico Madrid – before the season has even begun.

Bryan Robson.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

ENGLAND: World Cup skipper Bryan Robson undergoes a further achilles operation.

MEXICO: Cameroon World Cup star Roger Milla rejects an offer from Puebla.

SPAIN: Atletico president Jesus Gil appoints Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic, most recently of Paris Saint-Germain, as new boss.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

BELGIUM: National boss Guy Thys says that veterans Eric Gerets and Jan Ceulemans have changed their minds about taking international retirement.

CONTINUED OVER

DIARY

World Soccer's global news service conducted by Keir Radnedge

CONTINUED

FRANCE: Bordeaux president Claude Bez denies rumours that he threatened to call off the following day's game against Marseille in protest against the legal proceedings being formulated against him.

HOLLAND: Rinus Michels, having failed to find a new national boss, is persuaded by the KNVB to take up the reins again himself.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

ACTION: West Germany, in their first match since winning the World Cup and their first under new boss Berti Vogts, draw 1-1 with Portugal in Lisbon. Romania beat the Soviet Union 2-1 in Moscow and Finland and Czechoslovakia draw 1-1.

FRANCE: Marseille beat Bordeaux 2-0 in a somewhat flat match after all the hype. Papin scores both goals.

HOLLAND: PSV open their new season with a 5-0 win over Utrecht to delight new boss Bobby Robson.

SPAIN: Real Madrid are well beaten 3-1 by Milan in the Bernabeu Trophy match. Parra scores for Madrid, Carbone, Van Basten and Hierro own goal for the European champions.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

FRANCE: National boss Michel Platini recalls Daniel Bravo for the European championship opener against Iceland.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

BRAZIL: New boss Falcao names his squad for the friendly against Spain and includes only member of the World Cup party – Vasco midfielder Bismarck.

ENGLAND: The director of public prosecutions announces that no action of a criminal nature will be taken regarding responsibility for the Hillsborough disaster.

SPAIN: New injury blow for Real Madrid: Paco Llorente will be out of action for three months after shoulder surgery.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

ACTION: In Austria, Tirol and Salzburg edge one point clear of FK Austria, who are held 1-1 away by DSV Alpine ... in Belgium, Anderlecht go down 4-2 away to Liege ... Willem II thrash Sparta Rotterdam 6-1 in Holland with a Stewart hat-trick ... in Italy, Napoli crush high-cost Juventus 5-1 in the Supercup. New signing Andrea Silenzi scores twice, the other goals come from Careca (two) and Crippa ... the Spanish season opens with Barcelona winning 1-0 away to promoted neighbours Espanol ... Grasshoppers pull level with Lausanne at the top in Switzerland as Lausanne go down 2-1 at Sion ... East German midfielder Matthias Sammer scores an early goal to set up Stuttgart's 2-1 win over Nurnberg – coached by ex-Stuttgart boss Arie Haan – which lifts them to second place in the table behind Kaiserslautern.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

ACTION: In the African Nations' Cup qualifiers there are victories for Burkina Faso (2-0 v Togo), Congo (2-0 v Zimbabwe), Ghana (1-0 v Nigeria) and Morocco (4-0 v Mauritania) ... in Argentina, Boca are two points clear at the top after beating Union Santa Fe 2-0 ... in Czechoslovakia, Dukla suffer a crushing 4-0 home defeat at the hands of Bohemians while Banik Ostrava beat champions Sparta 2-1 with goals from Ollender and Necas ... Erwin Koeman scores his first goal on his return to Holland in PSV0s 1-1 draw away to Nijmegen. van der Laan scores four times in reviving Feyenoord's 6-0 defeat of MVV Maastricht ... in Portugal veteran striker Fernando Gomes scores a hat-trick as leaders Sporting sweep to a 5-1 victory over Salgueiros. Sporting lead Benfica by two points, but Benfica – who beat Penafiel 2-0 – have a game in hand ... in Spain Real Madrid open their season with a narrow 1-0 victory over Castellon which sees Manuel Sanchis score for Madrid's 1,000th league win. Atletico Madrid, under new coach Tomislav Ivic, draw 1-1 at Valencia.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

BRAZIL: Vasco da Gama are told by the South American confederation that their protests about the refereeing of their cup quarter-final against Nacional in Colombia will be investigated. Vasco had claimed that Uruguayan referee Daniel Cardellino had received death threats before the game, which Nacional won 2-0 to reach the semi-finals. In Colombia it is claimed Cardellino was offered 20,000 dollars before the match "to acr impartially,"

EAST GERMANY: The police report having had to fire warning shots at a crowd of 150 fans rioting on Sunday night after a friendly match between hosts Lok Leipzig and West German champions Bayern Munich ended in a 1-1 draw. Police arrest 33 fans and knives and tear gas bombs are among weapons seized.

PORTUGAL: National manager Artur Jorge drops Atletico Madrid's Paulo Futre from the European championship squad to face Finland. Futre missed Portugal's match against West Germany through injury but played in the Spanish league at the weekend.

ROMANIA: Seven men are jailed for three months and 50 others fined in Pitesti after fighting which followed Sunday's match between Arges Pitesti amd visiting Rapid Bucharest.

WEST GERMANY: An independent mediator, Werder Bremen president Franz Boehmert, settles the fee which Eintracht Frankfurt must pay Borussia Dortmund for Andy Moller at £1.6million ... World Cup star Pierre Littbarski offers to turn manager to help Koln out of a crisis which has brought only one win in four league matches.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ACTION: France beat Iceland 1-0 in a European under-21/Olympic qualifying tie in Reykjavik.

Portugal's Paulo Futre.

EAST GERMANY: Referee Thomas Essbach is suspended for 'helping' Carsten Sanger of Erfurt complete a urine sample for a dope test. Essbach, unfortunately, was taking medication for a cold and the test proved positive – which is when the truth came out.

ITALY: The head of the Italia '90 World Cup organisation, Luca di Montezemolo, is appointed executive vice-president of Juventus.

SPAIN: Paulo Futre says he will be joining Portugal's squad for the European tie against Finland after all.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

ACTION: In the European championship, France beat Iceland 2-1, Greece beat Albania 1-0, Hungary beat Turkey 4-1 and Denmark beat Sweden 1-0. In the first leg of the final of the 1988-90 European under-21 championship Yugoslavia are beaten 4-2 at home in Sarajevo by the Soviet Union ... Trabzonspor beat Bray Wanderers of the Irish Republic 2-0 in the Cup-winners' Cup preliminary round second leg. Trabzonpor proceed to a tie against Barcelona thanks to a 3-1 aggregate ... River Plate beat Barcelona of Ecuador 1-0 in their first leg of the South American club cup.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht lose a second successive league match, this time by 1-0 against Antwerp where they waste a penalty. Champions Brugge beat RWD 2-0.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: US World Cup defender Steve Trittschuh scores for Sparta in their 6-2 win over Hradec Kralovy.

EAST GERMANY: Chemnitz, formerly FC Karl-Marx-Stadt the pre-season league title favourites, are held 1-1 at home by Energie Cottbus.

ITALY: Juventus make a partial recovery from their Supercup thrashing by defeating Taranto 2-0 in their cup second round first leg match. Roberto Baggio scores the first goal from a penalty.

PARAGUAY: Referees from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay announce that they will not referee matches in Colombia because of the dangers.

ENGLAND: A hamstring pull wrecks plans of the Israel international Eli Ohana for a trial with Nottingham Forest.

REP IRELAND: The FAI say the national team will make a two-match US tour in 1991 as part of its World Cup preparations.

SWITZERLAND: The top of the table duel between Grasshoppers and Lausanne ends in a 1-1 draw which means the Hoppers maintain a goal-difference advantage over their rivals.

UNITED STATES: US president Alan Rothenberg reports having enjoyed "very fruitful" discussions with Franz Beckenbauer.

WEST GERMANY: Bayer Leverkusen beat Wattenscheid 2-0.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie announces agreement with Franz Beckenbauer for the West German World Cup-winning team chief to take over as technical director of the French champions.

EAST GERMANY: East German internationals receive formal notification that FIFA will take pity on them and, after the unification international against West Germany on November 21, will clear them to play for the new all-German national team. West Germany, however, do not have a game scheduled until a friendly next March against the Soviet Union ... Hansa Rostock sign US World Cup midfielder Paul Caligiuri.

KENYA: John 'Shoto' Lukoye, captain of Kenyan champions AFC Leopards, signs for West German third division club Alemannia Aachen.

POLAND: Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa says he will play next week in an exhibition football match to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Baltyk Gdynia football club and as a farewell match for former international Janusz Kupcewicz. Walesa will keep goal for a Senators-and-MPs' team against a Journalists' XI.

ROMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest agree to sell World Cup fullback Michael Klein to Bayer Uerdingen of West Germany for £325,000.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

PARAGUAY: The South American confederation announces, from its headquarters in Asuncion, that the club cup quarter-final between Nacional and Vasco da Gama must be replayed next Thursday in Santiago, Chile, after the row over death threats to referee Cardellino.

ITALY: Municipal workmen start ripping out sections of the new 'World Cup' roofing in the Stadio Meazza in an effort to save the pitch which is dying from lack of light and air. If remedial measures are not successful, Inter and Milan are warned, the pitch will have to be relaid and they will have to play their home matches elsewhere for the rest of the year.

SPAIN: Real Madrid skipper Chendo is dropped from Spain's squad for the friendly against Brazil.

UNITED STATES: USSF president Alan Rothenberg repeats his statement that Franz Beckenbauer, despite his switch to Marseille, will act as a consultant to the federation regarding the 1994 World Cup.

WEST GERMANY: Champions Bayern Munich return to the top of the first division thanks to their 4-0 thrashing of erstwhile leaders Kaiserslautern ... Koln star Pierre Littbarski damages ankle ligaments in a training accident, undergoes emergency surgery and is ruled out of action for between four and six months.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

ACTION: Rapid win 7-1 away to Sportclub in the Austrian first division. Herzog and Pfeifenberger both score twice ... more disappointment in Belgium for Anderlecht, who are held goalless at home by Cercle Brugge ... Franz Beckenbauer flies to France to watch his new club, Marseille, beat Paris SG 2-1 with goals from Waddle and Cantona ... in Holland, PSV beat MVV 3-0 despite the continuing absence of knee injury victim Romario ... in Spain Real Madrid suffer their first league defeat in 10 months as they go down 2-0 to Sevilla.

ENGLAND: York forward David Longhurst collapses and dies during the fourth division match against Lincoln. The match is abandoned.

ROMANIA: Following last weekend's soccer riot, Arges Pitesti are fined £500 for bad stadium management and visiting Rapid Bucharest are ordered to pay for repair work in and around the Pitesti stadium.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

ACTION: America of Mexico beat Alianza of El Salvador 2-0 in the Los Angeles Coliseum to win the Camel Cup ... Boca maintain their lead in Argetnina thanks to a 2-1 away win over Independiente ... in Holland Ajax are held 1-1 at home by Twente. In Drieberger a 50-year-old man is injured in both legs when an explosive device is thrown from a train carrying Feyenoord supporters to their match against Vitesse at Arnhem ... the Italian league begins with victories for Juventus, Milan and Inter – for whom Jurgen Klinsmann scores a hat-trick in their 3-0 success away to promoted Cagliari ... in Spain Barcelona go joint top after beating Valencia 3-1 with goals from Koeman, Stoichkov and Bakero.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

BRAZIL: Brazil boss Paulo Falcao agrees to release midfielder Bismarck from his squad travelling to Spain. Bismarck is needed by Vasco da Gama for their replayed cup quarter-final against Nacional of Colombia.

EAST GERMANY: UEFA sets up a special committee to advise East German football on financial and administrative problems likely to arise from the unification of Germany ... nine members of the national squad to play Belgium withdraw claiming injury.

PORTUGAL: Now Futre pulls out of the European qualifier in Finland after suffering a muscle injury playing for Atletico Madrid at the weekend.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

ACTION: Denmark beat Wales 1-0 in a friendly international ... in the European under-21/Olympic qualifiers, Scotland beat Romania 2-0, Portugal beat Finland 1-0, Bulgaria beat Switzerland 2-0 and the Soviet Union and Norway draw 1-1 ... in an under-21 friendly, England beat Hungary 3-1 at Southampton.

ENGLAND: New national manager Graham Taylor names Gary Lineker as his captain for the friendly against Hungary tomorrow.

FRANCE: Bordeaux mayor Jacques Chaban-Delmas gives Socialist opposition leader Francois-Xavier Bordeaux five days to produce a £20million rescue package for troubled Bordeaux.

HOLLAND: Police arrest two youths on suspicion of making and detonating the explosive which injured a man at the weekend.

SPAIN: Real Madrid ban the Catalan television station, TV-3, from the Bernabeu stadium after it superimposes a laughing cartoon character over weekend film of Madrid's defeat by Sevilla. A federation spokesman says: "Football is too serious to be a subject of such jokes."

UNITED STATES: The manager of the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans say they will bid to stage matches at the 1994 World Cup and thus make history by staging the first indoor tie in the event's history ... Peter Vermes, out injured since the World Cup finals in Italy, is named to make his comeback in the weekend international against Trinidad and Tobago.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

ACTION: European championship action sees a sensational 1-0 victory for international new boys, the Faroe Islands, over World Cup finalists Austria. There are also victories for Scotland, Switzerland, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Finland and Portugal draw 0-0 ... in friendlies, East German win 2-0 away to Belgium, England beat Hungary 1-0 in Graham Taylor's first match and the Irish Republic beat Morocco 1-0. Spain beat Brazil for the first time in 56 years, defeating an all-new-look side by 3-0 in Gijon ... in the under-21 championship, Austria beat Liechtenstein 6-0.

ENGLAND: Stock Exchange officials say they will inquire into the circumstances of a loan deal involving Tottenham Hotspur and the media magnate Robert Maxwell. Maxwell is reported to be considering taking a £12million stake in the financially-embarrassed North London club.

GREECE: Champions Panathinaikos sack Bulgarian coach Hristo Bonev while new Romanian striker Danut Lupu is banned for three matches after being sent off in a pre-season friendly.

ITALY: Juventus say they have given up any transfer interest in England's Des Walker and Paul Gascoigne.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ACTION: Vasco are 'again' eliminated from the South American club cup. In Santiago, they lose the replayed quarter-final second leg by 1-0 against defending title-holders Atletico Nacional of Colombia. Nacional now face Olimpia of Paraguay in the semi-final. The other semi is between River Plate and Barcelona of Ecuador.

UNITED STATES: The USSF admit, after earlier denials, that it is negotiating to put the national team into the Mexican or perhaps Brazilian championship to build up international experience ... bad news from Marseille, where Franz Beckenbauer says he may stay longer than his initial two-year appointment, throwing further doubt on his interest in working with the Americans before World Cup '94.

WEST GERMANY: Struggling Hamburg appoint former star striker Georg Volkert as coach. HSV had turned him down for the job during the summer but then failed with offers to Beckenbauer, Uli Stielike and Christoph Daum (ex-Koln).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

FRANCE: Nice are held goalless at home by Monaco.

WEST GERMANY: Kaiserslautern recover from their thrashing at the hands of Bayern by defeating Nurnberg 3-1.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

ACTION: In France, Marseille win 2-0 at Toulouse with fine goals from Waddle and Papin. Bordeaux are held 1-1 away to Cannes ... in Portugal Benfica win 3-0 away to Salgueiros in a match brought forward 24 hours to aid their preparations to face Roma in the UEFA Cup ... there are Spanish league victories for Barcelona (3-2 away to Betis) and Real Madrid (3-0 at home to Mallorca) ... in West Germany Bayern Munich maintain their leadership with a 2-1 win away to Fortuna Dusseldorf.

AUSTRIA: Josef Hickersberger resigns as manager of Austria in the wake of the European championship defeat by the Faroes. Under-21s' boss Alfred Riedl takes over.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ITALY: Two upsets in the second round of the championship: Napoli go down 2-1 at home to Cagliari while Juventus are held 1-1 on their league debut in the new Turin stadium by Atalanta.

ENGLAND: The Sunday newspapers report the latest developments in the Tottenham/Maxwell saga, including the departure of Paul Bobroff as chairman of the Tottenham Hotspur plc holding company and the fact that a loan from Maxwell was used to pay the last instalment of the Gary Lineker transfer fee to Barcelona.

SOCCER ON TV

SCREENSPORT

Please note that Central European Time will be the same as UK time from 30 September to 27 October 1990. On the 28 October the UK will return to GMT, making the rest of Europe one hour ahead.

Monday, October 1
All times are BST
1500 Argentinian Football
1930 Spanish Football Roundup
Thursday, October 4
2100 Top Team Spanish Football
Sunday, October 7
0330 Argentinian Football
Monday, October 8
1930 Spanish Football Roundup
Tuesday, October 9
1000 Argentinian Football
Thursday, October 11
1800 Argentinian Football
Friday, October 12
1600 Argentinian Football
Sunday, October 14
0330 Argentinian Football
Monday, October 15
1930 Spanish Football Roundup
Tuesday, October 16
1000 Argentinian Football
Thursday, October 18
2000 Argentinian Football
2100 Top Team Spanish Football
Tuesday, October 23
1000 Argentinian Football
Thursday, October 25
2100 Top Team Spanish Football
2300 Argentinian Football
Friday, October 26
1600 Argentinian Football
Monday, October 29
1930 Spanish Football Roundup
Tuesday, October 30
1000 Argentinian Football

EUROSPORT

EUROSPORT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1
4.00pm Soccer action from the Spanish League.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
11.00pm Update of the action from around Europe.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4
10.30pm 1st round/2nd leg action from the EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITIONS plus a goal review from Spanish League matches.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6
10.00am THE WINNING FORMULA: Another chance for budding footballers to benefit from a coaching programme devised by Charles Hughes, the Football Association's director of coaching.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7
10.00am THE WINNING FORMULA 8.00pm Soccer action from Spain.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9
7.00pm SPANISH GOALS: Multi-angle coverage of spectacular goals from soccer matches played in Spain.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10
11.00pm Teams battle for qualification for the 7TH EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS which will take place in Sweden in 1992.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11
10.30pm Comprehensive highlights of the qualifying matches for the 7TH EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS which will take place in Sweden in 1992.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
10.00 THE WINNING FORMULA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14
10.00 THE WINNING FORMULA 8.00pm Soccer action from the Spanish League.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16
7.00pm SPANISH GOALS: Multi-angle coverage of spectacular goals from soccer matches played in Spain.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17
11.30pm Teams battle for qualification for the 7T:I EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS which will take place in Sweden in 1992.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18
11.30pm Comprehensive highlights of the qualifying matches for the 7TH EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS which will take place in Sweden in 1992.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
8.00pm Soccer action from the Spanish League.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23
7.00pm SPANISH GOALS: Multi-angle coverage of spectacular goals from soccer matches played in Spain.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24
11.00pm Update of the action from around Europe.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25
10.30pm 1st round/2nd leg action from the EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITIONS plus a goal review from Spanish League matches.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27
10.00am FOOTBALL SCHOOL: (Part 1)
CONTINENTAL TIME CHANGE: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TIME CHANGES GIVEN IN THIS SCHEDULE FROM TODAY ONWARDS ARE FOR THE U.K. AND PORTUGAL. PLEASE ADD ONE HOUR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28
9.00am FOOTBALL SCHOOL: (Part 2) 7.00pm Soccer action from the Spanish league.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31
10.00pm Teams battle for qualification for the 7TH EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS which will take place in Sweden in 1992.

NEWS FROM AFRICA

Cameroon crash back to earth

BY MARK GLEESON

CAMEROON came quickly down to earth after the euphoria of the World Cup.

The Indomitable Lions did not look world class in two mediocre performances at the start of the qualifying campaign for the African Nations Cup finals, to be held in Senegal in 1992.

They were drawn in the easiest of the eight qualifying groups, against Guinea, Mali and Sierre Leone, but took only two points from their first two games – both 1-1.

First, in the welcome-back-from-Italy game at home to Mali, they were unable to win a home match for the first time since their opening World Cup qualifying match against Angola two years ago.

Mali's remarkable feat, against a team with five World Cup squad members present (with the European season under way their professionals were again absent, as was money-hungry Roger Milla) was repeated two weeks later in Freetown.

In the previous Nations Cup qualifying tournament , two years ago, Sierra Leone had upset Ghana and progressed to within one match of making the final tournament. This time they took a point off Cameroon, in a sloppy match on a muddy pitch.

Cameroon were one down, but Belle Belie equalised in the second-half. Sierre Leone claimed two late penalties but the referee turned their protests down.

Adding

Cameroon should go through from Group One, even so. They trail Sierre Leone, 2-1 away winners over Guinea in their first match, by a point, tied with Mali on two. Mali and Guinea drew 1-1 at Bamako in the other group tie.

Egypt, Africa's other representative in Italy, have not exactly set the continent aflame, either.

They beat Ethiopa 2-0 in Cairo in their opening Group Two match... but Ethiopa lost 6-1 on their last trip to the Egyptian capital.

This time 61 minutes had passed before Ahmed Ramzi scored, with Greek-based Hossam Hassan adding a second five minutes from the end.

Then Egypt were held to a scoreless draw in Chad, a coutry whose appearances on the African stage have been limited, but who cannot be underestimated especially at home.

Egypt have tough opposition in their group from Tunisia, also previous African representatives at the World Cup finals.

The Tunisians sneaked in 2-1 at home against Chad, then had their match with Ethiopa postponed because of heavy rains in Addis Ababa.

Elsewhere in the qualifying groups, there have been several surprises. For example, Nigeria – finalists in the African Nations Cup in March – lost away to Ghana in their second qualifying match, although they beat neighbouring Togo 3-0.

Madagascar have never reached the finals, but could give favourites Zambia a few headaches in Group Five.

They beat Angola 1-0 in Luanda – armed soldeirs escorted the home team off the pitch as angry fans pelted them with assorted missiles – then took a point off the Zambians.

If they can do the same in Lusaka in the return next year then the pressure will be on the Zambians to win in Luanda. And that's never easy.

Zambia started their campaign with an expected 5-0 thumping of Swaziland, who held Angola in Mhahane, with a stunning last minute goal through Turbic Torblanche.

Congo set off like a storm in Group Seven, shocking Malawi 1-0 away and beating Zimbabwe 2-0 at home, with goals from Ndomba and Makita.

Seychelles have withdrawn from the group, leaving Malawi and Zimbabwe with uphill battles.

Joint Group Three favourites, Ivory Coast and Morocco, started impressively.

The Moroccans scored six goals without reply in their opening two matches – 2-0 against Niger and 4-0 against Mauritania.

Losing

There is still uncertainty over Liberia, wracked by civil war, but so far their matches have been postponed, not cancelled.

Mauritius are officially out, withdrawing from Group Six despite a warm-up tour against Namibia (2-1) win and Botswana (0-0 draw). That leaves Kenya, finalists for the last two tournaments, Mozambique and Sudan in the group.

Gabon lead Group Eight after securing an away point against Tanzania in a goalless draw. Earlier they had beaten Uganda 1-0 at home in Libreville, with Regis Manon again in scoring form.

Zaire, expected to pose the biggest threat in the group, beat Tanzania 2-0 in their opening match before losing 2-1 in Uganda.

Group One: Cameroon 1 Mali 1; Guinea 1 Sierre Leone 2; Sierre Leone 1 Cameroon 1; Mali 1 Guinea 1.
Two: Eqypt 2 Ethiopia 0; Tunisia 2 Chad 1; Chad 0 Egypt 0.
Three: Cote d'Ivoire 2 Mauritania 0; Morocco 2 Niger 0; Morocco 4 Mauritania 0.
Four: Burkina Faso 2 Benin 0; Nigeria 3 Togo 0; Ghana 1 Nigeria 0; Burkina Faso 2 Togo 0.
Five: Angola 0 Madagascar 1; Zambia 5 Swaziland 0; Madagascar 0 Zambia 0; Swaziland 1 Angola 1.
Six: Sudan 1 Mozambique 0; Mozambique 2 Kenya 1.
Seven: Malawi 0 Congo 1; Congo 2 Zimbabwe 0.
Eight: Gabon 1 Uganda 0; Zaire 2 Tanzania 0; Tanzania 0 Gabon 0; Uganda 2 Zaire 1.

Roger Milla.

Hossam Hassan.

ZAMBIA WIN THE SADCC TOURNAMENT

ZAMBIA won the special tournament held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference, beating Zimbabwe 3-1 at Gaborone, capital of Botswana.

The tournament, involving all the 10 members of SADCC, started in January with a first qualifying group being hosted by Swaziland.

The second group was staged in Mozambique, with the semi-finals in Zambia.

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UNITED IN VICTORY – MAN UTD (60 mins)

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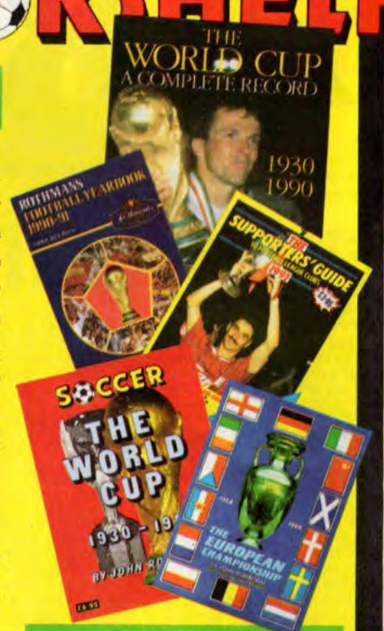

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BILARDO

King of his country

BY ERIC WEIL

CARLOS BILARDO said before this year's World Cup that he was quitting his job as Argentina's national team coach at the end of the year, when his contract expired.

After having achieved a near-miracle by taking a no-hope, veteran, injury-hit and suspension-riddled team to the final, where they lost only 1-0 to favourites West Germany on a doubtful penalty, he said he was quitting soccer coaching altogether.

That was hard to believe, although the reason he gave was sound enough. He wanted to spend more time with his wife, Gloria – who had never complained about a job that kept him away from home for so long, and never asked him to give it up – and his daughter Daniela.

Bilardo always seemed to be more of a football fan than a football professional and at only 53 he has hardly had enough of the game.

But he has had enough of interminable long journeys to arrange tours and training facilities, and the difficulty of speaking to players dispersed abroad.

Bilardo was born on March 16, 1937 in La Paternal, a suburb of Buenos Aires, and is a doctor, having taken his degree in 1967 when already a soccer pro. But it is doubtful whether he will ever take up medicine as a profession.

He started his soccer career with San Lorenzo, one of the big Buenos Aires clubs, and played there from 1955 to 1963 before moving to Deportivo Espanol, another Buenos Aires club, for two seasons.

He then went to Estudiantes de La Plata and gained his greatest successes as a player, helping the club to the championship in 1967, the Libertadores Cup in 1968, 1969 and 1970, and the Intercontinental Cup in 1968. Later, as coach, he took Estudiantes to their second title, in 1982, and became national coach at the end of 1983, when Cesar Menotti resigned.

There is no doubt that he has had the greatest success of any Argentine national coach, having won one World Cup and being losing finalist in the next within four years. But in all these years his style, mostly defensive and playing without wingers, was never liked.

Fans also complained that he programmed everything around the World Cup and did not care much about results outside these tournaments.

As a result, his overall record with the national team in almost eight years does not look all that good – only 28 games won, out of 82, with 31 drawn and 23 lost, with 92 goals scored and 74 conceded.

All this has to be put into perspective. Bilardo learnt most about soccer with Estudiantes, a rough and not very good team employing a lot of gamesmanship. Even Argentine fans got fed up with their soccer while they were winning Libertadores Cups. He played under an outstanding coach, Osvaldo Zubeldia, said to be ahead of his time, so it was only natural that Bilardo would base his way of coaching on Zubeldia's.

When he followed the latter as coach to Colombia, where he was in charge of Deportivo Cali and the

Burruchaga scores Argentina's 1986 World Cup Final winner against West Germany in the Azteca Stadium, Mexico City.

national team, they did not like the rough play of his teams there either!

Bilardo was rarely able to field the strongest Argentine team outside World Cup tournaments, because so many of the players were abroad with clubs who would release them only for World Cup games. Lately, no sooner had he chosen a new player for his national squad then the man was transferred abroad. Obviously foreign clubs appreciated his judgement – though that did not cause Bilardo any great satisfaction.

In almost eight years in charge, Bilardo has had several good offers from abroad – like the three million dollars from Barcelona for a 30-month contract – but always turned them down, saying that he preferred to take the national team to the World Cup. And he almost didn't.

Before the 1986 World Cup there was even government pressure to remove him and he stayed only because of the strong support he had from the FA president, Julio Grondona.

When the team returned from Mexico with the trophy there were banners all over town saying: "Sorry, Bilardo, we forgive you."

Again, before Italia '90, President Menem, a keen football fan, invited Bilardo to a much-publicised barbecue to talk tactics and suggest the players he would like to see in the team. Bilardo kept faith with those he had chosen, and went his own way.

A lot of coaches would have lost their enthusiasm. Not Bilardo ...

The story goes – and I'm told its true – that one morning he went out to do the shopping for his wife and three hours later rang up from Rosario, over 300 kilometres away. While in the supermarket he had been told of a promising player who would be in Rosario that afternoon, and had rushed off to see him.

His friends tell of the times he has gone to have a pizza with them and then started talking about soccer tactics, using the olives from his plate as "players" to explain moves.

Somehow one can't see Bilardo giving all that up at a stroke. And at least one player – Diego Maradona, no less – has said that he will not play in the national team again without Bilardo.

Even his greatest enemies couldn't get away from the fact that he is the hardest-working coach they have ever known.

IN THE 82 internationals Argentina played under Bilardo, from May 1983 – a 2-2 draw with Chile in Santiago – to July 8 this year in the World Cup final, a total of 82 players took part.

Jorge Burruchaga played 59 games, Oscar Ruggeri 55, Ricardo Giusti 54, Diego Maradona 46, Oscar Garre 41 and Sergio Batista 40.

Maradona scored 19 goals, Burruchaga 14, Claudio Caniggia eight and Ricardo Careca six.

BROWN HANGS UP HIS BOOTS

BY ERIC WEIL

Brown ... packing it in as a player at 33.

LEADING transfers during the close season included the following:

Ramon Quiroga, the Argentine-born goalkeeper who became a Peruvian international and was in the middle of the 1978 World Cup scandal when Argentina beat Peru 6-0 to qualify for the finals, has joined Lima's Deportivo Municipal as coach.

Jose Luis Brown, the outstanding Argentina World Cup defender in 1986, has retired at the age of 33, after 15 years as a professional. He plans to join a leading club as coach.

Hugo Gatti, the former Argentine international goalkeeper, is playing on – at 46. Gatti, who has been inactive since leaving Boca Juniors two years ago after disagreements with the coach, signed for Deportivo Espanol just before the transfer register closed.

ERNESTO CORTI, Argentine international striker, from River Plate (Argentina) to Toluca (Mexico), ARIEL COZZONI, last seasons top scorer, from Newell's Old Boys to Nice (France) ... OSCAR RUGGERI, Argentine international defender, from Real Madrid to Velez Sarsfield, free ... ANGEL COMIZZO, Argentine goalkeeper, from River Plate to Universidad de Nuevo Leon (Mexico) ... SERGIO BATISTA from River Plate back to his first club, Argentinos Juniors.

Strike threat is averted

THE Argentine season began after a late agreement by the FA to give freedom of contract to several players who had been claiming it.

In most cases the dispute was over a technicality, when clubs did not advise players in time by telegram (as the law demands) of their contract renewal. There was nothing else the FA could do – 48 hours before the start of the championship, players were ready to go on strike.

But Argentinos Juniors, who lost Fernando Redondo and Silvio Rudman – youngsters close to international selection – in this way, have started a lawsuit against the FA.

Another pre-season problem, threatening a split between big clubs and small, had been settled a bit earlier. The clubs with most followers wanted a bigger share of the gate money and finally got it, after lengthy sessions.

Obviously Boca Juniors and River Plate are the top draw. They now take 60 per cent of the gate, and there is a sliding scale below them.

There is also a change in the format to increase interest and, hopefully tickets sales – club members get in free on home grounds – which averaged around 6,000 last season.

The two rounds of the championship (in each of which the clubs meet once) will have a champion and the two will meet for the title at the end – unless the same club wins both rounds.

With most clubs in financial difficulties, internal transfers have been virtually non-existent, but players continue to be sold abroad. Free transfers have been responsible for other moves.

After two games Boca were the only club with four points, but not all the teams had played twice. Velez Sarsfield and Rosario Central were on tour in Mexico on the first Sunday and Lanus, who only recently won a promotion playoff, were given a three-week rest.

The other promoted team, Huracan, used to be one of the big clubs.

RIO DE JANEIRO BY BRIAN HOMEWOOD

ABSOLUTE CHAOS

Vasco da Gama believed they'd won the Championship.

NEW depths of stupidity were reached at the Maracana stadium when Botafogo met Vasco in which was supposedly the final of the 1990 Rio de Janeiro state championship.

A dispute over the rules of the competition meant that both teams left the stadium claiming to be champions.

Botafogo believed that they had to defeat Vasco inside 90 minutes – which they duly did with a goal from Carlos Alberto Dias in the 75th – to take the trophy for the second year running.

Vasco believed that a win or a draw would give them the title, and that even if Botafogo won during 90 minutes, the match would go to extra time.

As a result, when the final whistle blew, Botafogo's players celebrated the "bicampeonato", grabbed the trophy and did their lap of honour, while the Vasco players stood in the centre circle waiting for extra time to begin.

When it didn't, they found a different trophy (it's amazing how trophies appear from seemingly nowhere in Brazil) and completed their own lap of honour.

Eventually the title was decided not on the pitch but in a boardroom, where a CBF tribunal awarded the championship to Botafogo.

Behind the confusion lay the political interests and pure vanity of our old friends, Brazil's football directors, who took it upon themselves to change the rules halfway through the championship.

Under the original rules, the competition had been divided into several phases. In the first part, 12 teams played each other once with the winner, Vasco, qualifying for the final phase.

The second phase was a repeat of the first, again with the winner, Fluminense, going into the final round. These teams then joined the club who gained most points over the two rounds combined – defending champions Botafogo.

The original format for the final phase envisaged Vasco playing Fluminense first with the winner meeting Botafogo to decide the title on equal terms, Botafogo having earned their privilege by scoring the most points over the initial phases (which in most countries would have given them the title without the need to play a "final").

The final stage was due to be played before the World Cup, but it was postponed because five Vasco players were selected for the ill-fated national squad. Then, just after the World Cup finished, the Rio state federation decided to alter the rules.

A meeting resolved that Botafogo would have to beat the winners of the Vasco-Fluminense match in the 90 minutes and then again in extra time. Any other result, including a draw, would give the title to Botafogo's opponents (who turned out to be Vasco after a 1-0 win over Fluminense).

Botafogo appealed to the CBF's supreme tribunal, the STJD, that the change in the rules had been irregular. The STJD was not sure that it had the power to resolve the matter and decided to meet first to decide whether it could decide. But for bureaucratic reasons, the meeting was held ten days AFTER the final had been played.

The game went ahead with nobody really understanding what was going on. A Vasco victory was the only result that would allow the bewildered supporters – only 35,000 bothered to go, compared with the usual 100,000 plus – to leave the stadium knowing who was the champion.

But Botafogo deservedly won and ten days later the STJD duly met, voted that it did indeed have the power to decide the matter and then promptly concluded by seven votes to one that Botafogo were the legitimate winners – a decision that had been made long before by the press and public.

Why was it, then, that the rules were altered in the first place? According to the local press, it all came about because of an alliance between Eurico Miranda, the powerful Vasco director whose name crops up in the sports pages of local papers more often than that of almost any player, and Eduardo Viana, president of the Rio state football federation.

Exactly

It is a well-known fact in Brazilian football that Miranda will go to any lengths to get what he wants for Vasco, no matter what the cost to football in general.

So it was no surprise when he suggested changing the rules to favour Vasco, despite the chaos this would cause. And with the backing of Viana, he was able to achieve his aim, at least until the STJD saved the day.

It is not exactly clear what Miranda and Viana see in each other, but speculation is that it is something to do with Miranda's political ambitions and Viana's appetite for power.

Miranda is trying to get himself elected as a deputy for the Rio de Janeiro state government (the election is in October). Viana, the story goes, has promised to get all his friends in the interior to back Miranda, in return for Vasco's support in the Rio football federation.

Newspaper columnist Washington Rogrigues recently described Viana in the Jornal dos Sports as a "megalomaniac" and wrote: "The worst of it is that Viana thinks he is the football of Rio de Janeiro, that it is up to him to give orders and up to the others to obey." Other newspapers and radio stations echoed the sentiments.

As if to try to prove their point, Viana declared immediately after the Vasco-Botafogo match that he – on his own – was expelling Botafogo from the Rio federation. A meeting of the federation ten days later voted overwhelmingly not to accept Viana's decision.

Nevertheless, Viana insists on saying that he will go down in history as the "man who disaffiliated Botafogo for ten days."

Viana is only in power because of the absurd structure of the Rio federation, in which the president is voted in by the member clubs (from all three divisions) plus the amateur leagues from the state's interior.

Big clubs such as Flamengo or Fluminense have the same voting power as half-pint outfits such as Friburgense or Bonsucesso. The problem is that there are only four big clubs (Flamengo, Fluminense, Botafogo and Vasco with only the latter supporting Viana) against a whole army of little ones.

So all the president has to do to stay in power (and he can be re-elected until the end of the universe) is do what he is told by the small clubs and amateur leagues. Many of these leagues are known as "phantoms" because they do not actually organise any football. They have been set up purely to vote at federation meetings.

This is why the big four find themselves playing endlessly against ridiculously inferior sides, who will go to all lengths of time-wasting and violence in their attempts to squeeze the odd point from their big brothers.

And this is why Viana is attempting to increase the size of the Rio First Division to 20 clubs next year, even though the current 12 is far too generous. The supporters will stay away, the major clubs will make a huge loss, television will provide almost all the revenue, the players will continue to take the first available plane to Europe – but Viana will get his votes.

Example

A similar structure exists in virtually every other state federation. The Sao Paulo championship, for example, has ballooned in recent years and the First Division next year is likely to be contested by no fewer than 28 clubs.

Once again this is a result of an "interiorisation" policy by the federation president, Eduardo Jose Farah. Officially, his motive is to "encourage football in the interior of the state" but everybody knows the real reason.

If anything, Farah is even more notorious than Viana. In April, Placar magazine published an extensive story containing numerous allegations of corruption within the Sao Paulo federation. The principal one was that Farah does not have any activity outside the federation, from which he theoretically receives no income. Despite this, Placar claimed, Farah spends all his time at the federation and lives very comfortably. Farah has not since refuted the claims.

He is a specialist in self-promotion and is responsible for the banners frequently appearing during matches at stadiums in Sao Paulo praising his administration.

The same single-vote system applies to the good old CBF itself, where Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo have the same voting rights as Acre and Alagoas. If president Ricardo Teixeira goes on amusing the small states, his mandate will be automatically extended in 1992 irrespective of how good or, more appropriately, bad a job he has done for the game itself.

This ridiculous voting system is imposed by law and can be changed only by Congress. Fortunately, there is now hope of this finally happening.

The Brazilian government's sport secretary – none other than Zico – has planned to send a "projeto de lei" (the local equivalent of a bill) to Congress altering the system.

Zico, who blames the single vote system as being at the root of the problems involving football, wants to introduce a system in which the club's (or federation's, in the case of the CBF) voting power is determined by its patrimony and record in past competitions (a power that will change according to alterations in these two criteria).

If the law goes through, it will mean a return to the good old days pre-1976, the year in which the current law was imposed.

Most competitions in Brazil then were organised on the accepted formula of a league with home and away matches, the winner being the team gaining most points. Maybe it is no coincidence that since the mid-1970s Brazil's fortunes in the international game have taken a dramatic turn for the worse.

There are, naturally, more than a few ifs and buts. So many people have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo that Zico would cause less controversy if he nominated Saddam Hussein for the Nobel Peace Prize or advocated chopping down the entire Amazon rain forest, while getting enough Congressmen to turn up to vote for a new law is an achievement in itself.

Despite receiving outrageously high salaries Brazil's Congressmen are reluctant to appear to vote on matters of vital national importance, so sporting matters could be simply forgotten.

In the meantime, it's chaos. Apart from competitions being decided by the boardroom instead of by the ball, Brazil has been suffering from the complete disorganisation of the calendar. Fixture lists are for ever being altered, competitions start late and finish even later.

The high – or low – point came during a recent weekend when we had the final of the 1990 Piaui state championship, a match in the second round of the Copa Brazil and one in the third of the same event, a whole series of games in the penultimate phase of the Sao Paulo championship and the opening match of the 1991 Ceara state championship – all on the same day!

Politics and vanity are ruining the Brazilian game

Brazilian secretary of sport Zico wants to alter the crazy system.

NEW TWO UPSET THE BIG FOUR

FOR the first time in history the Sao Paulo state championship was contested by two teams from the interior of the state.

Bragantino and Novorizontino drew both matches of the two-leg final 1-1, but Bragantino took the title because they had gained most points over the previous three phases of the competition.

The presence of two teams from outside the capital was not a great surprise. Over the past five years there have been numerous indications that the big four – Palmeiras, Corinthians, Sao Paulo and Santos – are no longer going to have things their own way.

The major breakthrough happened in 1986, when Internacional, from the city of Limeira, became the first side from outside the cities of Sao Paulo and Campinas to win the competition.

Sao Jose went close to emulating them last year when they lost by a single goal to Sao Paulo in the final, having beaten Corinthians in the semi-final.

Bragantino finished fourth last year and on their way they won 3-0 against Palmeiras, favourites to take the title they had not won for 14 years. Palmeiras lost only that one match in the whole competition.

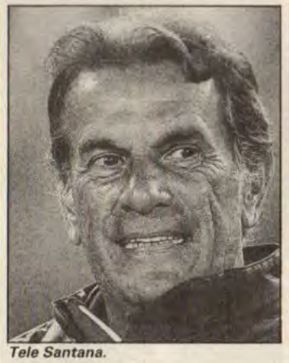
The interior of Sao Paulo state is one of the most prosperous regions of Brazil and in many places the standing of living bears more resemblance to the first world than the third.

Many clubs receive substantial financial backing from commerce and industry, some have generous presidents or owners, and some even get help from local government, though whether this is a correct use of public funds is open to dispute.

The interior also has been greatly favoured by the current president of the Sao Paulo federation, Eduardo Jose Farah, though his motives have more to do with politics than any noble intentions to promote the game in more remote areas (despite the healthy state of the game outside the city of Sao Paulo, there is still no justification for allowing 28 clubs in the First Division of the Paulista championship).

Bragantino's rise from obscurity has been as dramatic as Watford's or Wimbledon's but without the use of the same crude tactics.

Two years ago the club were still playing in the Second Division of the Paulista championship. They won promotion in 1988 and on their debut last year they reached the semi-finals, where they lost to Sao Paulo. They also won promotion to the top division of the Brazilian championship – no mean feat when you consider there were 96 clubs chasing two places.



Tele Santana.

The club's base is Braganca Paulista, 50 miles north of Sao Paulo. The city has a population of just over 100,000 and is both an agricultural and industrial centre.

The football club, formed in 1928, play at the Marcelo Stefani stadium, which has a 17,000 capacity. The only honour, apart from the recent titles, was the Paulista Second Division back in 1965.

Bragantino fall into the category of clubs with a generous owner. The man in question is none other than Nabi Chedid, former vice-president of the CBF, who in his time there was responsible for some of the worst chaos seen in Brazilian football – until Ricardo Teixeira took over.

Executive

Nabi's brother Jesus is the club president, and Nabi's son Marco Antonio is executive director. The Chedids own a number of bus companies (most public transport in Brazil is privately run) and between them are said to have a patrimony worth £26 million.

Bragantino pay better salaries than the big clubs of Rio and Sao Paulo (the players reportedly shared a £300,000 bonus for winning the competition). The stadium is being extended to hold 27,000 and a modern training centre is under construction.

One reason for success is that they managed to keep their squad intact and hold on to the same manager, Vanderley Luxemburgo, for 18 months – an almost impossible feat in Brazil.

Luxemburgo, who was a defender for Botafogo and Flamengo during his playing days, must take much of the credit. His name is now bound to be linked with the post of national team manager if things go badly wrong for Falcao.

The most important players are Mainho, a 24-year-old forward signed from Santos, who was Bragantino's top scorer in the competition, and right-back Gil Baiano, signed from Guarani and likely to be in a Brazil shirt before long.

Unlike Bragantino, Novorizontino caused a major surprise by reaching the final having finished a modest twelfth the previous year. In the semi-final phase they won their group ahead of Palmeiras, the team now coached by Tele Santana.

Palmeiras beat Novorizontino in what as considered to be the crunch match, but threw away their chance of reaching the final by losing to Piracicaba and dropping a home point to lowly Ferroviaria.

The city of Novo Horizonte, 255 miles north west of Sao Paul, has only 29,000 inhabitants. The soccer club was founded in 1973, under the name of Pima, by workers at a shoe factory. After winning a local league in 1974 and 1975 the players turned professional, changed the name to Novorizontino, and joined the Sao Paulo federation.

In 1977, Jorge Ismael de Biasi, the current president, took over the club. He invested heavily and in 1981 the club won promotion to the Second Division of the Paulista championship, then went up to the first in 1985. The stadium, which has a 20,000 capacity, has been named after the president.

Novorizontino, well-known for producing young players, won the Paulista youth championship in 1988. Three of that team are now regulars in the professional side – goalkeeper Mauricio, defender Marcio Santos and midfielder Luis Carlos Goiania.

The rest of the current side represent an investment of £1.2 million by manager Nelson Batista, a former Sao Paulo defender.

Bragantino and Novorizontino now face different prospects in the short-term future.

The former aim to go on and win the Brazilian championship, which might not be beyond them.

Novorizontino, meanwhile, are in the curious position of not having any competition to play in until the 1991 Paulista championship begins in January.

NO PLACE AT THE PARTY

HOSTS CHILE MUST MISS THEIR OWN TOURNAMENT

CHILE will stage next year's South American championship – even though the country's national team will not be able to take part.

The South American Football Confederation, meeting in Asuncion, Paraguay, awarded Chile the right to hold the Copa America in what was seen as a move to compensate the country for the heavy sanctions FIFA imposed after the World Cup qualifier against Brazil last year.

The sanctions included Chile's suspension from international competition organised by FIFA until the 1994 World Cup finals.

The tournament is usually played in mid-year, but Chile will suggest a postponement to September, to escape the rainy season.

Officials were hoping the award of the championship and the fact that their goalkeeper, Roberto Rojas, had earlier confessed that his wounds, which caused all the rumpus during the match against Brazil, were self-inflicted, would lead to FIFA lifting its sanctions.

Relations between Brazil and Chile had been re-established with a friendly inter-club tournament, with two clubs from each country, earlier this year, while home and away full internationals are scheduled for October and November.

Only one country was annoyed about Chile's designation – Bolivia, who had hoped to become the venue.

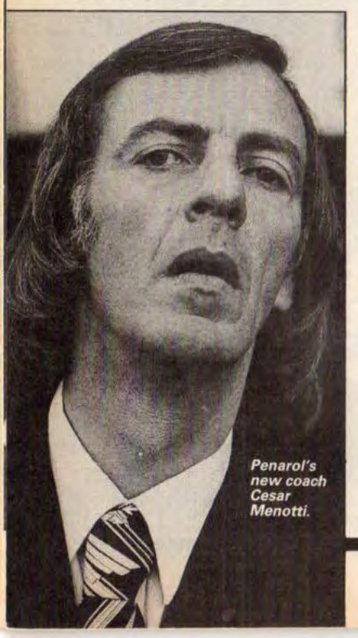
There is talk that the Confederation will let them stage the first tournament to be played between all previous Americas Cup winners – Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Bolivia.

The draw for the first round of the South American Super Cup, for Libertadores Cup winners, is:

Cruzeiro (Brazil) v Racing Club (Argentina), River Plate (Argentina) v Olimpia (Paraguay), Gremio (Brazil) v Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina), Penarol (Uruguay) v Santos (Brazil), Independiente (Argentina) v Nacional (Uruguay), Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) v Flamengo (Brazil). Matches are to be played home and away.

Boca Juniors (Argentina), who won last year's tournament, have a bye into the second round.

Chile 'keeper Rojas is carried off the field after feigning injury against Brazil.



Penarol's new coach Cesar Menotti.

Last year's Libertadores winners, Nacional of Colombia, decided not to participate this year, but the Confederation have now made it mandatory for winners to participate in future editions.

The Confederation also set other dates: South American U-20 in Venezuela from January 25 to February 10, U-17 in Peru from February 24 to March 10 and Olympic Games qualifying in Paraguay from April 18 to May 10, 1992.

URUGUAY: A committee formed shortly after the World Cup, to investigate the national team's poor performances in Italy, reported that there was poor discipline, caused by the permissive attitude of officials who tried to avoid conflicts.

The report mentions disagreements between officials and the coaching staff, problems between an FA official and a player (Antonio Alzamendi), a shortage of equipment, and differences between players and sponsors.

In one instance the team refused to pose for a photograph promised to a chemical company.

The First Division was suspended after four games while clubs – including Penarol, with new coach Cesar Menotti – were on tour.

Central Espanol and Bella Vista were joint leaders with six points from four games.

COLOMBIA: Independiente of Medellin, overshadowed recently by town rivals and Libertadores Cup-holders Nacional, are making the running in the second stage of the championship for the Mustang Cup.

They led by three points halfway through, after a string of seven victories, and were running second overall (counting points obtained in both tournaments) behind America Cali, who went 18 matches without defeat until recently.

The top eight in the overall standings qualify for the final round.

Nacional, frequently fielding reserve teams while fighting to retain the Liberatadores Cup, were sixth.

The Colombian League will have automatic promotion and relegation for the first time starting in 1992, with a Second Division of 12 semi-professional clubs. Up to now clubs meeting all the conditions and continually doing well in their regional league could be voted into the top division.

ECUADOR: Nacional, the only club traditionally fielding only home-born players, easily won the first stage of the tournament by six points over champions Barcelona (Guayaquil) and Deportivo Quito.

They carried on where they left off in the second stage, winning their first two games and establishing a record of 21.

Town rivals Liga Deportivo Universitaria who previously held it were the only team to beat Nacional in 24 matches this season.

Nacional's centre-forward, Ermen Beitez, is also leading scorer with 21 goals.

BOLIVIA: Bolivar, San Jose, Oriente Petrolero and Jorge Wilsterman clinched the top four places in group A to qualify for the final round.

The Strongest and Independiente Petrolero made it from group B with one match to go, leaving two places open.

Bolivar beat The Strongest 3-2 in the La Paz derby between the leaders of the two groups. When The Strongest were later eliminated from the Libertadores Cup, coach Raul Alvarez resigned.

PARAGUAY: The third stage of the First Division ended with champions Olimpia and Nacional (on goals) winning the two sections, to complete the eight-team final round with San Lorenzo, Colegiales, Libertad, Cerro Porteno, River Plate and Tembetary.

Bad weather delayed the finals for two weeks.

PERU: Melgar, Deportivo Junin (Huancayo), Deportivo Hospital (Pucallpa) and Deportivo Pacifico (Tumbei) won regional groups to qualify for the final round of the regional championship.

They join four clubs from the metropolitan group – Alianza Lima, Sport Boys, Universitario and champions Union Huaral. The last two took the top places to enter a four-team play-off for a Libertadores Cup place next year.

CHILE: Universidad Catolica had a one-point lead over Colo Colo after six games, but Colo Colo had two bonus points to Universidad's one from the pre-season tournament.

Colo Colo are current champions, and Universidad vice-champions.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

FROM ERIC WEIL

MEXICO BY ERIC WEIL

FOREIGN COACHES IN MEXICO TAKEOVER

FOURTEEN of Mexico's 20 First Division clubs were under foreign coaches on the eve of the new season.

And there were 57 imported players – 33 re-signed and 24 newcomers. The foreign coaches comprise four Uruguayans, three Chileans, three Argentines, two Brazilians one from Honduras and one from Yugoslavia.

Each club can have four foreign players, but not all of them can afford that many and one, Guadalajara, traditionally rely on home-grown talent.

Controversial referee Edgardo Codesal has been rewarded for an "outstanding" World Cup.

Antonio Alzamendi in trouble after disagreements with FA officials.

Argentines, as usual, make up the majority (18), followed by 11 Chileans, nine Brazilians, eight Honduraneans, six Uruguayans, and one each from Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Panama and the United States.

Defending champions Puebla have only Chileans, and one of them, striker Jorge "Mortero" Aravena, was named top player of last season by sports writers.

Puebla wanted to break the Chilean monopoly by signing Cameroon's World Cup star, Roger Milla, but the 500,000-dollar fee they offered was not enough.

The writers also gave a prize to Mexican referee Edgardo Codesal for his "outstanding" work in the World Cup – which must have been the only bouquet he got after his controversial handling of the final.

One curious contract was that of Mexican Gerardo Pacheo with Atlas. He agreed to play for two seasons without payment, but would receive 69,000 dollars at the end.

Mexico's efforts to get together with the South American Confederation and play in competitions such as the Copa America for countries and the Copa Libertadores for clubs was not welcomed by other CONCACAF countries.

They thought Mexico's attitude high-handed and pointed to the recent heavy defeat, a 6-1 aggregate, of Mexico's UNAM by Nacional of Colombia for the Inter-American Cup.

The split seemed to accentuate after CONCACAF's president, Mexico's Joaquin Soria Ferrazas, was beaten in this year's poll, after 27 years. Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago took over amid accusations and counter-accusations.

Mexican officials have now said that they have no intention of leaving CONCACAF, but Warner has accused the former administration of corruption and spending money unscrupulously.

ASIAN NOTEBOOK

FROM PAUL MOON

Police in charge

THE Federation Cup which has evolved into the most important club competition in India – due largely to it being a gateway to the Asian Champions' Cup – produced a most unlikely winner this year.

Salgaocar; successful in 1988 and 1989, were odds on favourite when they won their semi final with Calcutta League champions East Bengal and found themselves facing Kerala Police in the final.

No side from Kerala state had even reached the Federation Cup Final before, whereas the Goa team were appearing at the ultimate stage for the fourth successive season.

Salgaocar had a big advantage in terms of experience but, it transpired, that was more than nullified by the fervent home town support Police enjoyed.

Over 30,000 noisy fans crammed into the stadium at Trichur in provincial Kerala, where the whole tournament was staged, and inspired the underdogs to a famous victory.

Prime hero for the policemen was striker C.V. Pappachan, who opened the scoring in the 19th minute and closed it in the 77th. The latter strike proved to be the decider, as Salgaocar were restricted to a 38th minute goal by Santan Kalasco.

Triumph

Apart from Police's unexpected triumph, the Cup of 1990 will be remembered for the comparatively disappointing performances of Calcutta's leading clubs.

Calcutta Mohammadan, like East Bengal, fell at the semi finals and can claim to be somewhat unlucky in going down to Police in a penalty shoot out. Still, the days of Calcutta dominance are undoubtedly over – at least for the moment.

Nonetheless, the Calcutta League aroused just as much interest as ever – despite the latest edition being a one horse race. East Bengal finished ten points clear of Mohonbagan, with the third member of India's traditional "Big Three", Mohammadan, a further 15 points adrift.

The champions scored 57 goals (Mohonbagan were the second highest scoring side, with 33) and provided the top three individual goalscorers in Chima Okari (17 goals), Shishir Ghosh and Kuljit Singh (10 each).

That attacking potency was maintained in the Federation Cup, only for defensive weaknesses to be exposed in Trichur.

MOHAMMADAN DETHRONED

MOHAMMADAN Sporting's strangehold on Bangladeshi domestic soccer has been broken.

The country's most popular club appeared set for another grandslam of local honours when, early in the 1989-90 campaign, they both broke Victoria's record of 67 Dhaka League games without defeat (set in 1965) and won the Federation Cup – the national club championship. The unbeaten run was extended by a further eight matches ... then things started to go wrong.

Fakirerpool's astonishing 2-1 victory would have been regarded as little more than an annoying hiccup as Mohammadan proceeded to complete their League programme without any further mishaps, had arch-rival Abahani not accumulated an even better record and taken the title by a single point.

Abahani's success was based upon the lethal striking duo of Aslam and Rumi, who occupied the two top spots on the goalscoring chart. The former's 11 goals gave him the "Golden Boot" award for the fifth time.

To prove the League triumph was no fluke, Abahani also won the Independence Day Football Tournament. This competition; inaugurated by the ever-innovative Bangladesh Football Federation, featured leading club sides and the national under 16 and under 19 selections.

Predictably, Abahani and Mohammadan faced each other in the final. With Aslam unavailable for the game, the newly-crowned Dhaka League champions relied upon Rumi to find the net and he duly obliged in the 65th and 74th minutes. Emily pulled one back three minutes from the end, but it came too late to salvage the game – or Mohammadan's season.

Like Glasgow Rangers, Real Madrid and Juventus; Mohammadan regards one trophy per season not to be good enough.

Canterbury overcome Taranaki challenge

IN a torrid affair at Christchurch, Canterbury defeated Taranaki 1-0 to retain the Winfield Shield. The captain, Keith Braithwaite, scored after exactly one hour.

A Taranaki side dominated by players from the Air New Zealand National League's bottom side, New Plymouth, adopted a hard-running, robust-tackling approach and never allowed Canterbury to settle into their usually free-flowing rhythm.

However, an ineffective attack failed to stretch the home team's rearguard and when, just a minute after Braithwaite's goal, Taranaki defender Darren Fletcher was sent off for a vicious late tackle the challenge to the champions had effectively ended.

Thomson in charge of Socceroos

EDDIE Thomson has been appointed coach of the Australian national side.

Thomson, now 43, was a prominent central defender with Hearts and Aberdeen in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He won caps for Scotland at under 23 level.

After a short stint with San Antonio in the United States, Thomson moved to Australia in 1977 and became the National Soccer League's most successful coach when guiding the now defunct Sydney City to three Championships. He later took Sydney Olympic into a Grand Final.

Assistant to Frank Arok between 1983 and 1988, Thomson was appointed caretaker upon Arok's resignation as Australian national coach in May. For some time, it appeared likely that Josef Venglos, who was in charge of the Socceroos 20 years ago, would be re-appointed, however the Australian Soccer Federation declined to meet his salary requirements (believed to be in the region of U.S. $100,000 per annum) and Thomson was left to take up the reins.

Thomson when a player with Hearts.

Sinai boost for Bnei Yehoudah

BNEI YEHOUDAH won the Israeli championship – their first major achievement. They completely dominated the other clubs throughout the second half of the race.

For the final fixture, they defeated Betar Tel-Aviv (3-0), finishing the season with 59 points, to the 54 for Hapoel Petah Tikvah, 48 for Maccabi Tel-Aviv and 47 for last term's champions, Maccabi Haifa.

In two seasons manager Grova Spiegel, former player with French clubs Strasbourg and Lyon, has made his side a totally uncompromising one. Solidarity and consistency were the main reasons the club surged on to fulfil their dreams. The arrival of international play-maker Moshe Sinai proved a big boost for their challenging hopes, adding experience to a rather young and enthusiastic side.

Israel's Moshe Sinai.

Singing

With 14 goals to his credit, Sinai finally claimed the second top scorer spot, two goals behind Uri Malmilian of Betar Tel Aviv.

The club celebrated with style all night long, thousands of fans singing and dancing with players.

Following their 3-2 win over the Soviet Union, the new re-shaped national team played (without Rosenthal, Ohana and Tikvah, all of them suspended by the federation for refusing to line-up against the Soviets) against Argentina, and lost 1-2.

The revelation of the first game was 19-year-old Tal Benin, best player and scorer of the winning goal.

Olympic are worthy Aussie champs

A Soccer League record crowd of 26,352 – the majority exultant Sydney Olympic supporters – saw the Greek migrants backed club shatter Marconi's dream of a third successive title with a 2-0 win in the Grand Final at Paramatta Stadium.

Goals by Alistair Edwards (35th minute) and Robert Ironside (51st) gave Olympic the crown for the first time.

Yet Olympic very nearly failed to qualify for the complex end-of-season play offs which determine the Australian champions!

A.P.I.A. Leichhardt needed only to draw their last game of the regular season to claim the fifth and final qualifying spot, but lost 1-0 at Melbourne Croatia enabling Olympic – who took a point from Blacktown City on the same day – to squeeze into the top five with a superior goal difference.

They then won a place in the Grand Final with a series of courageous performances, mostly against the odds.

Olympic completely eclipsed an off-colour Marconi on the day and could easily have won by a more convincing margin. The springboard for success was a polished midfield who maintained the initiative over their highly-rated counterpart throughout.

Abbas Saad, a vital cog in that midfield, deservedly gained the accolade for man-of-the-match – the Joe Marston Medal named after the Preston North End player of the 1950s, who remains one of Australia's most famous soccer products.

Cup success for bank

THE President's Cup traditionally the blue riband event of South Korean domestic soccer, is now somewhat devalued by the exclusion of professional teams.

In the final of the latest edition (the 37th), Citizens' National Bank defeated Hyundai's reserve (amateur) selection 1-0.

Young Russians too good for Asians

MUCH as expected, the U.S.S.R. (the only European entrant) proved too powerful for all Asian opposition encountered in the International Under 21 Tournament staged in Bangkok recently.

Only in the final, when China took them into extra time before succumbing 3-1, were the Russians extended.

Al Shabab scramble to first U.A.E. title

Abdul Rahmen Mohamed.

WITH all national squad members concentrating upon World Cup finals preparations and, at the insistence of the United Arab Emirates Football Association, not participating during the League season's second half, Al Shabab's first ever Championship was devalued somewhat.

The Dubai club, deprived of "only" three key players, were the least weakened among the title contenders but even so had to thank a further contentious decision by the Association for their success.

In virtually every other country, Al Wasl would have been declared champions – their goal difference being far superior to Al Shabab's after both teams had finished their campaigns with 40 points.

However, local rules demanded a play off and in this Al Shabab won 2-1, Abdul Rahmen Mohamed's 52nd minute opener being countered by goals from Abdul Khaleq Fadel (56th minute) and Khamis Saad (66th). On the day, they were slightly the better team in a highly entertaining game.

Never to be accused of adopting a low profile, the U.A.E.F.A. then announced that, from next season, the first division will be extended to 16 clubs.

Whether or not the Emirates has sufficient depth of talent to justify such a large premier competition remains to be seen, but most observers believe the move to be a bad one – after all, the country only has 1,500 registered senior players.

Despite the U.A.E.'s historic qualification for the recent Mundial, the local game continues to suffer from more than its fair share of problems.

Several on-field brawls marred the latter stages of the domestic season and there is absolutely no sign of an improvement in the notoriously poor standard of refereeing in the Emirates.

Even though pride in the national team is, quite rightly, at an unprecedently high level, apathy surrounds the game at grass roots level. Unless this can be overcome, the 1989-90 World Cup campaign will be merely an aberration and not the springboard to even better things that Emirates officials have promised.

Canterbury bury shield challenge

CANTERBURY opened the 1990 Winfield Shield programme with a predictable 7-0 win over Mid Canterbury.

For the first time, a Shield game was played on the challenger's home ground. This was something of a flag-waving exercise for the sport and, in this respect, was a relative success. 500 – a record for Ashburton (a rural soccer backwater) – were attracted to the match

Danny Halligan (3), Keith Braithwaite, Paul Nicolls, John Hanson and Julyan Falloon scored for the holders. A long-range drive from veteran midfielder Graham Duncan, which hit the bar, was the nearest Mid Canterbury came to embarrassing Canty goalkeeper Alan Stroud.

Al Hilal clinch Saudi league in style

AL HILAL secured a record sixth Saudi Arabian League title in an appropriate manner when hammering bottom placed Al Raed 8-0 in their last game. The Riyadh club finished two points clear of second placed Al Ahly.

Never before in the Saudi League had any team won by an eight goal margin and six were claimed by teenage striker Sammy Al Jaber. This "double hat trick" enabled Al Jaber to end the season as leading scorer – three ahead of the magnificent Majed Abdullah.

A 35,000 crowd saw Al Hilal crowed as champions and, overall, attendances in the Kingdom remain very healthy – despite the national side's disappointing performances of late.

The season was also notable for several members of last year's World Youth Championship winning side establishing themselves in first division line ups.

Walid Al Torair, in particular, is developing very nicely as Majed's striking partner at Al Nasr and is one of several reasons why the enthusiastic Saudi Arabian soccer fans can look forward to a return to the top of the Asian tree in the not too distant future.

Another clean sweep for Nissan

NISSAN completed a second successive clean sweep of major domestic honours when topping the Japan Soccer League First Division, despite being pressed all the way by a rejuvenated Yomiumi. Had the Tokyo club won their penultimate game against third-placed A.N.A., instead of being held to a draw, they would have taken the title on goal difference.

Nissan owed much to a creative midfield, in which Kimura Kazushi was again an inspiration, and the striking prowess of Brazilian Renato, who was the League's top scorer with 17 goals.

Five teams in the 12 strong First Division had better defensive records than the champions and the Nissan rearguard may require strengthening if a hat trick of hat tricks is to be achieved next year.

Kimura Kazushi.

A star is born in Fiji

THE final of year's Battle of the Giants Tournament in Fiji – the country's third most important competition – would have appealed to devotees of old Hollywood movies.

After hosts Ba and Suva had battled through regular and extra time without scoring, the now familiar penalty shoot out began. Then, Ba's 18-year-old goalkeeper Iosefo Vosaboto stepped into the limelight.

To the delight of the 13,000 strong crowd at Govind Park, Vosaboto made two superb saves enabling his team to emerge as winners of the shoot out 5-4, and the following day was drafted into the Fijian national squad to tour the United States.

A NEW
THE OL

Nicely ... David Platt shows true class with a scoring header against Liverpool.

ENGLISH football is looking to new horizons, Gazzamania is the new craze ... but the old masters are still on top.

No matter what else changes, the Liverpool success story goes on. The early weeks of the 1990-91 season can have left few – if any – in doubt. Liverpool are going to be the team to beat.

They were the only First Division club with maximum points after three matches, won the next two as well, and showed every sign of building up the momentum to yet another title.

The champions began their defence with a 3-1 win away to newly-promoted Sheffield United, although their path was eased by an injury to Sheffield goalkeeper Simon Tracey, and to two mistakes by his replacement, full-back John Pemberton, a £300,000 summer recruit from Crystal Palace.

Pemberton unwittingly set up goals for John Barnes and Ian Rush, and Liverpool were instantly back in business.

They had luck with them that day, but there was no disputing their power or superiority in the 2-0 home victory against Nottingham Forest. They simply overwhelmed Brian

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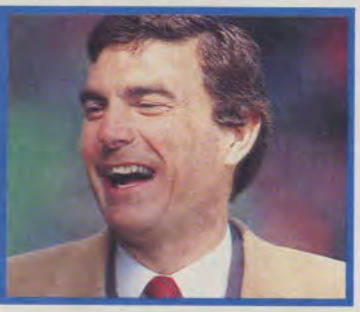

Good start for a new skipper ... Gary Lineker with Hungary's captain, Garaba.

Barnes boost for England

RUSH MYSTERY

THE first internationals of the season were a useful indication of the strengths and weaknesses of sides as they set out on their European Championship campaign.

In Group Seven England and the Republic of Ireland find themselves together once again, along with Poland and Turkey.

They both gained comfortable 1-0 victories in their friendly matches with Hungary and Morocco, with perhaps England's more significant as it was the opening game in charge for Graham Taylor.

His team selection showed only minor adjustments from England's World Cup side, which has seen Peter Shilton and Terry Butcher leave the international stage, and the unlucky Bryan Robson continue with his injury problems.

Chris Woods edged out David Seaman in goal, and Paul Parker switched into the centre of defence with Des Walker and Mark Wright as the successful sweeper system was retained.

Paul Gascoigne and David Platt renewed their blossoming midfield partnership, with Stuart Pearce and Lee Dixon pushing forward out wide.

Most encouraging was the display of John Barnes, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy his roving role in attack and suggested his old club manager might release the frustration he so often shows for England.

Up front Gary Lineker celebrated his excellent choice as captain by looking as sharp as ever and scoring a typical opportunist goal.

For this match his partner was Steve Bull, but I still don't believe they are the ideal blend and so that appears to be Graham Taylor's main priority before facing Poland at Wembley on October 17th.

On the same night Jack Charlton's team take on Turkey for their opening competitive match, and are still finding goals hard to come by. His amazing record shows only six defeats in 44 games, but it has been achieved with a relatively low total of only 53 goals.

Throughout that time his defence has remained watertight, but the introduction of Manchester United's Denis Irwin might help in attacking situations, too.

In the centre of defence Mick McCarthy and David O'Leary played against Morocco, but he might be tempted at some stage to switch Paul McGrath back into his club position.

Midfield still remains his strongest department with Ray Houghton, Ronnie Whelan and Andy Townsend providing a solid base to lean on.

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EW CRAZE RIVALS OLD GUARD

By Derick Allsop

Clough's side.

Barnes set up the first goal for Rush and the issue was settled by Peter Beardsley, who had been left out at Sheffield but returned full of menace and invention.

Beardsley and Barnes did not enjoy England's World Cup adventure as much as most, yet for Liverpool they continue to deliver. They scored the goals in the 2-1 Anfield win against their closest challengers of last season, Aston Villa.

Barnes's decisive strike, three minutes from the end of a match in which another England player, David Platt, had equalised set the standard for all "goal of the season" contenders.

Vision

Villa manager Jozef Venglos said: 'Liverpool are the beat team in Europe, and Barnes is a player with great quality, vision and touch.'

We have heard it all before, of course, but for Venglos it was a first encounter with Liverpool since he ventured into English football as successor to Graham Taylor at Villa Park.

At that stage the chasing pack was led by another newcomer, Leeds United. They had two wins and a draw from their first three matches and gave a clear indication that they are capable of protecting their status.

They will be more anxious about the behaviour of their infamous supporters following a warning from the FAO Leeds were told they will be outlawed if their fans persist in misbehaving as they did at Bournemouth last season.

Any disturbance this season could result in Leeds playing their following four home games behind closed doors. The punishment for a subsequent offence could well be the withdrawal of the club's FA membership. That, in reality, would force them out of business.

Leeds at least had some positive results on the field to console them, but for Everton there was no such comfort. They were torn by dressing-room unrest, and three defeats in three matches left them stranded at the bottom of the table.

Goalkeeper Neville Southall, often acknowledged as the best in Britain, staged a sit-down protest during the half-time interval of their opening match, a 3-2 defeat at home to Leeds.

Welsh international Southall, who had already made a number of transfer requests, put further strain on his relationship with the club by walking out on to the pitch for the second half several minutes ahead of his team-mates and lounging against a goalpost.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association joined fans in condemnation of Southall's gesture. The club reacted by fining him a week's wages, around £3,000.

Southall eventually said: "What I did was not a protest. I was determined to do well against Leeds because I felt I had something to prove. But I didn't do very well in the first half and I didn't really want to listen to anything at half-time.

"But I made a wrong decision. I put the boss and the board in an awkward situation, and I regret it."

Southall played well in the match away to Manchester City but was beaten once, by former team-mate Adrian Heath, and Everton had been subjected to defeat No. 3.

The heat was turned off Manchester United's Alex Ferguson last season by the team's FA Cup success but again he has the task of making them a force in the League.

United kicked off with yet another Bryan Robson injury crisis. After an operation on his damaged Achilles, he broke down, had to have a further operation, and faced three more months out of action.

His club colleagues had a typically mixed start. They shared the Charity Shield with Liverpool, beat Coventry at home, drew at Leeds, lost at Sunderland and won at Luton.

United and Villa lead English football back into European club competition this season and the international squad, lifted by their exploits in Italy and now managed by Graham Taylor, head for the European Championship with fresh belief.

Virtually

Nowhere, though, are expectations higher than at White Hart Lane, home of England heroes Gary Lineker and Paul Gascoigne. The Gazza phenomenon has been good business for club and player.

Gazza, the commercial man's dream, smiled out from everywhere. It was virtually impossible to avoid coming into contact with Gazzamania, although Gordon Taylor and Tottenham's chairman, Irving Scholar, were among those expressing concern.

Taylor said: 'There were certain officials who went out to make their name hounding George Best, and I hope the same doesn't happen to Paul.

'All of a sudden he is expected to cope with the sort of intense pressure that even the Prime Minister would struggle with. I don't want to see this kind of thing make him grow like a monster.'

Scholar was anxious to ensure that Gascoigne's lucrative schedule of personal appearances did not affect his performances on the field. He ordered the player's advisers to cut down his business engagements.

Graham Taylor named Crystal Palace goalkeeper Nigel Martyn in his first England squad, for the friendly match against Hungary at Wembley.

Martyn was given the place left vacant by Peter Shilton's retirement from the international scene, although Chris Woods and David Seaman clearly moved up the pecking order.

Newcomer ... Nigel Martyn was in the England squad for the first time.

Not this time, Scotland ... Romanian Sandoi beats McCoist to the ball.

Republic to beat Poland and Turkey, and so make their November clash in Eire an absolutely crucial tie.

Wales began their season with a disappointing 1-0 defeat by Denmark, which looks even more discouraging when their Group Five rivals include World Cup holders West Germany and Belgium.

Terry Yorath also played a sweeper system against the Danes, but confidence must be wilting somewhat. This was their sixth defeat in their last seven outings.

It continues to be a mystery how a side that includes Ian Rush, Mark Hughes and Dean Saunders can find it so difficult to score. Amazingly Ian Rush has gone over two years without an international goal.

Scotland and Northern Ireland started their European campaign in contrasting fashion, with Andy Roxburgh's weakened side surprisingly beating Romania, while Billy Bingham's line-up never looked likely to disturb a strong Yugoslavian team who should win Group Four.

Victory

Before the Romanian game Scotland's preparation looked in disarray as several experienced players withdrew with injuries. This was in addition to earlier announcements by Mo Johnston and Jim Bett that they no longer wanted to be considered.

It's staggering that someone doesn't want to play for his country and seemed a sad reflection on the attitude of a few professional footballers these days.

To Scotland's great credit they emerged with an unlikely looking team that grasped two excellent qualifying points to boost everyone.

Roxburgh followed Graham Taylor's example and appointed a new captain, with midfielder Paul McStay his choice for the future.

Certainly the victory has given Roxburgh some extra selection options for the next game against Switzerland, who themselves made a fine start by beating Bulgaria.

Northern Ireland must pick themselves up for the visit of Denmark, but in all honesty their squad is lacking a little quality at the moment, and there was no disgrace in losing to one of the favourites to lift the trophy in 1992.

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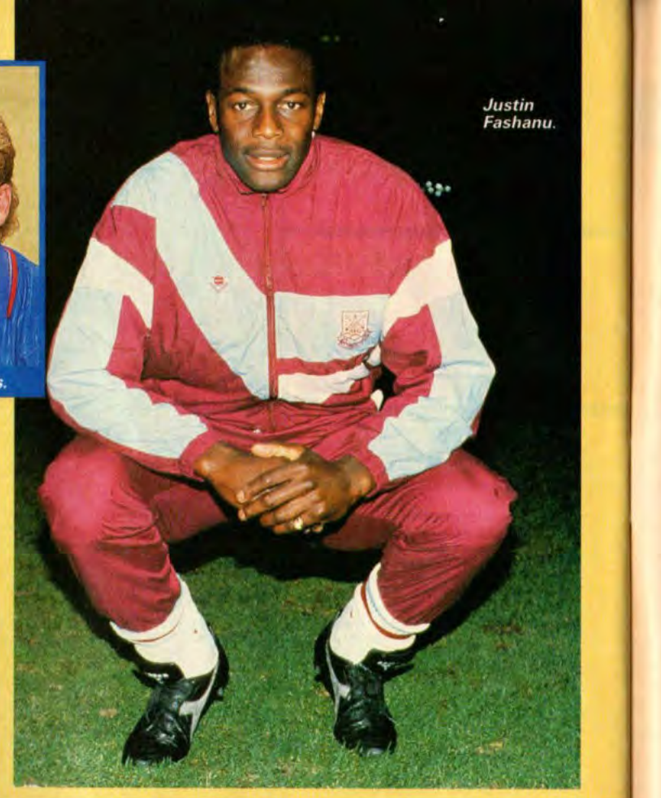
USA REPORT

Gary Williams.



Justin Fashanu.

Kenny Wharton.

BAYS AMAZE IN MAJOR UPSET

By Colin Jose

THE American Professional Soccer League's champions will be decided after the winners of the American Soccer League and the Western Soccer League have met in the final at Nickerson Field in Boston.

Last year's champions, Fort Lauderdale Strikers, were beaten in the ASL final by Maryland Bays – a major upset that threw the overall competition wide open.

Maryland thus qualified to play the winners of the WSL final between San Francisco Bay Blackhawks and Los Angeles Heat, to decide the championship.

Fort Lauderdale were a goal down at half-time in the first leg against Maryland, hit back to lead 2-1, then lost 3-2 with the winner coming in the 88th minute. Although Fort Lauderdale were expected to recover in the return leg played in Florida, once again Maryland came out winners, this time 2-0.

In the semi-finals Fort Lauderdale beat Albany Capitals and Maryland eliminated Tampa Bay Rowdies.

Out west, San Francisco defeated Colorado Foxes 2-1 in one semi-final and Los Angeles beat California Emperors 2-0 in the other.

This is the second year that the winners of the two U.S. professional leagues, now joined together as the APSL, have met in the final. Last year Fort Lauderdale defeated the San Diego Nomads.

The fourth Canadian Soccer League season has almost reached the play-off stage. As expected, Vancouver 86ers continue to dominate the Western Division, while Toronto Blizzard and Montreal Supra are neck and neck in the East.

Montreal, on the verge of collapse a year ago, are the surprise team of the year. They are under new ownership, with South African Roy Wiggemansen as coach, and went undefeated for a large part of the season.

Hamilton Steelers, beaten finalists in the first three years, are third in the east, with newcomers Kitchener holding fourth spot. The first four teams qualify for the play-offs.

Several players from British clubs were signed by CSL clubs this season to fill their import quota of three non-Canadians per team. Mike Carter (Bolton, Plymouth, Hereford), Gary Williams (Bristol Rovers, Oldham) and Dean Walling (Rochdale) all started the season with Kitchener, although Williams has since been replaced by Bob Colville (Oldham, Bury and Stockport).

Michael McAnenay (Albion Rovers) is with Ottawa and Gerry McCabe (Clyde) with Victoria. Kenny Wharton of Newcastle, who started the season with Winnipeg as a player, has become player-coach.

Justin Fashanu, the former Norwich and Nottingham Forest striker, started the season as player-coach of Hamilton Steelers, was fired, and has now returned as a player.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

AUSTRIA
Midweek:
Kremser 2 (Perstling 31, Miesbauer 40), Sturm 1 (Temm 63). Att: 2,000.
Admira 1 (Glatzmayer 10), **Alpine 1** (Sabitzer 84). Att: 1,500.
Rapid 3 (Kienast 29, Keglevits 60, Fjortoft 62), Vienna 1 (Balzis 15). Att: 4,000.
Wiener SC 2 (Barac 50, Krinner 84), **Vorwarts 0**. Att: 1,500.
Tirol 1 (Danek 36), **FK Austria 2** (Hasenhuttl 35, 73). Att: 10,000.
A Salzburg 5 (Bierhoff 15, 19, 38, 63, Kurbasa 48), **St Polten 1** (Vorderegger 68). Att: 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

AUSTRIA
Weekend:
A Salzburg 3 (Bierhoff 2, Willfurth 10, Kurbasa 42), FK Austria 2 (Stoger 63, Hasenhuttl 80). Att: 13,000.
Rapid 1 (Reisinger 81), St Polten 1 (Roth 25). Att: 4,500.
Tirol 4 (Gorosito 9, Danek 44, 61, Hortnagl 52), **Vienna 1** (Heraf 77). Att: 4,000.
Krems 1 (Gross 35), **Alpine 1** (Stankovic 1). Att: 1,500.
Wiener SC 2 (Bleyer 35, Dallos 85), **Sturm Graz 3** (Holzer 43, Pegam 51, Wetl 78). Att: 2,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

AUSTRIA
Kremser 0, Admira 0. Att: 1,400.
Alpine Donawitz 4 (Stankovic 7, Sabitzer 19, Auffinger 41, Karlsberger 58), **St Polten 0**. Att: 3,000.
Vienna 1 (Heraf 40), **Vorwarts 1** (Novak 62). Att: 1,500.
A Salzburg 2 (Gassner 8, Willfurth 31), **Wiener SC 0**. Att: 8,500.
FK Austria 0, Sturm Graz 0. Att: 5,000.
Tirol 3 (Pacult 63, Danek 65, 71pen), **Rapid 2** (Kienast 47, Fjortoft 59). Att: 14,000.
BELGIUM
Charleroi 1 (Affo 17), **Waregem 0**. Att: 12,000.
Gent 6 (Soudan 2, Vandenbergh 62, 70, 89, Viscaal 74pen, Dauwen 82), **St Truiden 3** (Van Kets 43, Nwosu 45, Ghislain 85). Att: 9,000.
Genk 1 (Bucun 77), **Liege 0**. Att: 12,000.
Standard 7 (Molnar 4, 23, 48, 60, Vandersmissen 21, Thans 68pen, Hellers 77), **Beerschot 1** (Talbut 58pen). Att: 13,000.
Kortrijk 4 (Ducoulombier 41, 68, Goots 83, Ballengien 87), **Antwerp 1** (Broeckaert 7). Att: 7,000.
Ekeren 3 (Snelders 17, 83, Sabbadini 79), **Lokeren 0**. Att: 3,000.
Anderlecht 0, Cercle 0. Att: 15,000.
Lierse 0, Mechelen 4 (Severeyns 12, 22, B Versavel 27, Wilmots). Att: 8,000.
Brugge 2 (Farina 42, 44), **RWDM 0**. Att: 8,000.
FRANCE
Bordeaux 2 (Kieft 70, 79), **Nantes 0**. Att: 18,000.
Marseille 2 (Amoros 12, Papin 61), **Lille 0**. Att: 34,019.
Toulouse 2 (Marcico 34pen, Debeve 44), **Metz 1** (Zenier 69). Att: 9,521.
Cannes 1 (Milinaric 7), **Caen 1** (Rio 67). Att: 8,777.
Monaco 0, Lyon 0. Att: 13,000.
Saint-Etienne 1 (Witschge 2pen), **Montpellier 0**. Att: 14,171.
Paris SG 1 (Bravo 40), **Auxerre 1** (Scifo 3). Att: 17,919.
Nancy 2 (Bertrand 44, Stojkovic 54), **Toulon 1** (Marquet 66pen). Att: 12,407.
Brest 4 (Salaun 22, 57, Ginola 67, Pierre 80), **Nice 0**. Att: 7,000.
Sochaux 4 (Madar 14, Thomas 19, Caveglia 25, Croci 75), **Rennes 0**. Att: 5,436.
PORTUGAL
Maritimo 2, Beira Mar 2.
Benfica v Gil Vicente pstpnd.
Sporting 3 (Careca II 70, Venancio 78, Gomes 87pen), **Vitoria Guimaraes 0.**
Porto 2 (Kostadinov 2, Paille 83), **Penafiel 0.**
Tirsense 2, Salgueiros 1.
Chaves 0, Boavista 1.
Braga 2, Belenenses 0.
Famalicao 1, Estrela 1.
Vitoria Setubal v Uniao pstpnd.
Farense 2, Nacional 1.

SWITZERLAND
Luzern 0, Grasshoppers 2.
St Gallen 2, Aarau 1.
Servette 0, Xamax 0.
Wettingen 0, Lugano 4.
Young Boys 1, Lausanne 1.
Zurich 1, Sion 1.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

AUSTRIA
Rapid 2 (Fjortoft 77, Pfeifenberger 84), **A Salzburg 4** (Kurbasa 36, Bierhoff 65, 88, Feiersinger 86). Att: 9,000.
Sturm Graz 6 (Koschak 33, Radojevic 36, Konrad 46, Holzer 49, 89, Wettl 73), **Alpine 1** (Kogler og 66). Att: 9,000.
St Polten 2 (Petres 24, Roth 85), **Vienna 5** (Steinkogler 9, Haas 51, Drabits 63, Balzis 67, 88). Att: 1,600.
Wiener SC 2 (Mahdalik 52, Gager 56), **Krems 0**. Att: 1,400.
Vorwarts 0, FK Austria 2 (Flogel 9, Zsak 87). Att: 9,500.
Admira 0, Tirol 2 (Danek 18, Westerthaler 85). Att: 3,000.
BELGIUM
Midweek:
Liege 0, Gent 1 (Verdegem 77). Att: 12,500.
Beerschot 1 (Heymans 14), **Genk 1** (Boulet 40). Att: 4,000.
Waregem 1 (Mauro 61), **Standard 1** (Molnar 71). Att: 8,000.
RWD 1 (Van Veldhoven 89), **Charleroi 1** (Drogno 12). Att: 7,000.
Lokeren 2 (Meszaros 12, 37), **Lierse 0**. Att: 5,000.
Cercle 3 (Karacic 26pen, 51, Weber 53), **Ekeren 2** (Hofmans 15, Droessart og 42). Att: 4,000.
St Truiden 1 (Nwosu 42), **Kortrijk 0**. Att: 6,500.
Mechelen v Brugge pstpnd (Sep 26).
Antwerp 1 (Emmerechts 68), **Anderlecht 0**. Att: 18,000.
Cup 1st rnd (selected): Charleroi 4, Aalter 0; Duffel 0, Antwerp 8; Bornem 2, Cercle 1; Liege 5, Binchoise 0; Standard 7, Mol 0; Lierse 3, Union 2; Tilleur 1, Gent 3; Hasselt 1, Beveren 2; Mechelen 5, Kampenhout 0; Waregem 0, Hoogstraten 1; Lokeren 3, Ostende 1; Tienen 0, Club Brugge 1; Anderlecht 4, Poederlee 2; Lyra 1, RWDM 1 (Lyra 5-4 on pens, aet).
FRANCE
Nantes 1 (Robert 80), **Marseille 1** (Boli 84). Att: 31,814.
Caen 2 (Rix 66, 86), **Toulouse 0**. Att: 10,619.
Metz 4 (Asanovic 57pen, Calderaro 61, Romano 84), **St Etienne 1** (Sivebaek 68). Att: 12,478.
Lille 0, Cannes 2 (Micciche 31, 56). Att: 8,968.
Bordeaux 0, Monaco 0. Att: 20,000.
Lyon 1 (Masson 37), **Sochaux 0**. Att: 22,851.
Nice 1 (Mege 27), **Paris SG 1** (Bravo 65). Att: 13,000.
Auxerre 2 (Kovacs 44, Cocard 87), Brest 2 (Martins 24, Ferrer 65). Att: 11,500.
Montpellier 5 (Xuereb 26, 33, Ziober 50, 55, Lemoult 81), **Nancy 0**. Att: 12,022.
Toulon 1 (Bursac 85), **Rennes 0**. Att: 5,855.
HOLLAND
SVV 0, Feyenoord 0. Att: 27,000.
Sparta 1 (Houtman 67), **Vitesse 1** (Loeffen 70). Att: 4,500.
Ajax 3 (Pettersson 6, Blind 15, Roy 54), **Willem II 1** (Van Geel 52). Att: 14,650.
Den Haag 0, Fortuna 0. Att: 4,500.
Roda 1 (De Wijs 50), **Groningen 1** (Meijer 89). Att: 10,000.
Heerenveen 1 (M De Jong 45), **Volendam 3** (Steur 17, Bakker 85, Berghuis 90). Att: 10,000.
PSV 5 (Vanenburg 15, 76, Ellerman 17, Romario 69pen, 84), **Utrecht 0**. Att: 23,900.
MVV 1 (Delahaye 82), **NEC 2** (Van Wanrooy 9, Sanchez Torres 29). Att: 4,500.

PORTUGAL
Beira Mar 0, Farense 0.
Gil Vicente 2, Maritimo 0.
Guimaraes 0, Benfica 2 (Schwarz 4, Thern 44).
Penafiel 2 (Jorge Costa 31, Ricardo 80), **Sporting 5** (Gomes 35, 89pen, Venancio, Litos 60, Oceano 68).
Salgueiros 1 (Toze 52), **Porto 3** (Milovac og 42, Kostadinov 83, Geraldao 88).
Boavista 1, Tirsense 1.
Belenenses 2, Chaves 0.
Estrela 2, Braga 0.
Uniao 2, Famalicao 1.
Nacional 1, Setubal 1.

SWITZERLAND
Grasshoppers 0, Aarau 0.
Lausanne 1, Xamax 0.
Lugano 0, Sion 0.
Luzern 3, St Gallen 1.
Wettingen 2, Zurich 2.
Young Boys 2, Servette 2.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

AUSTRIA
Midweek:
Wiener SC 1 (Jany 18), **Alpine 0**. Att: 2,100.
Admira 1 (Glatzmayer 52), **Sturm Graz 0**. Att: 2,500.
Tirol 5 (Pacult 20, 88, Gorosito 39, Danek 40, Peischl 55), **St Polten 0**. Att: 5,500.
Krems 1 (Spitzer 21), **Vorwarts 1** (Brankovic 47). Att: 2,000.
Rapid 2 (Fjortoft 10, Pecl 40), **FK Austria 0**. Att: 15,500.
A Salzburg 1 (Lainer 68), **Vienna 1** (Spielmann 78). Att: 13,000.
Weekend:
Tirol 2 (Pacult 19, Danek 32), **Wiener SC 0**. Att: 6,000.
Alpine 1 (Auffinger 89), **FK Austria 1** (Stoger 20). Att: 3,500.
Vienna 1 (Balzis 48), **Sturm Graz 0**. Att: 1,500.
A Salzburg 1 (Bierhoff 84), **Krems 0**. Att: 10,000.
St Polten 1 (Echaniz 55), **Vorwarts 2** (Brankovic 35, Madlener 74pen). Att: 1,700.
Rapid 2 (Pecl 16, Pfeifenberger 70), **Admira 0**. Att: 3,000.
BELGIUM
Midweek:
Standard 1 (Thans 32), **RWDM 0**. Att: 12,000.
Beerschot 1 (Audoor 4), **Waregem 1** (Vannove 87). Att: 3,000.
Kortrijk 2 (Goots 57, Janssen 72), **Liege 0**. Att: 5,000.
Anderlecht 1 (Nilis 47), **St Truiden 0**. Att: 16,250.
Ekeren 2 (Schmoller 54, Snelders 56), **Antwerp 2** (Van Rooy 14, Lehnhoff 88). Att: 9,250.
Lierse 4 (Flo 60, Boonen 75, Rekdal 78, 88), **Cercle 0**. Att: 4,000.
Brugge 1 (Ceulemans 31), **Lokeren 0**. Att: 11,000.
Charleroi 5 (Hurtado 3, 55, Wuyts 32, 44pen, Affo 9), **Mechelen 1** (Ingesson 65pen). Att: 16,250.
Racing Genk v AA Gent pstpnd (Sep 26).

Weekend:
Liege 4 (Malbasa 8, 75, Boffin 35, Quain 40), **Anderlecht 2** (Oliveira 31, 38). Att: 14,000.
Gent 2 (Viscaal 26, 82), **Kortrijk 1** (Goots 56). Att: 11,000.
Mechelen 1 (Wilmots 54), **Standard 3** (Molnar 47, Siquet 65, Cruz 88). Att: 10,000.
Antwerp 2 (Claesen 29, 84), **Lierse 0**. Att: 5,000.
St Truiden 1 (Van Kets 60), **Ekeren 1** (Sabbadini 66). Att: 6,000.
Waregem 4 (Teppers 24, Vannove 52, Niederbacher 58, Boes 78), **Genk 0**. Att: 4,000.
RWD 4 (Emmenalo 14, Van Veldhoven 34, Osundu 59, Lorincz 90), **Beerschot 1** (Ngombo 24). Att: 4,500.
Lokeren 0, Charleroi 1 (Wuyts 73. Att: 4,500.
Cercle 0, Brugge 1 (Farina 75). Att: 14,000.
FRANCE
Midweek:
Marseille 2 (Papin 14, 83), **Bordeaux 0**. Att: 35,887.
Toulouse 2 (Acista 8pen, Delpach 57), **Nantes 0**. Att: 11,854.
Cannes 0, Metz 1 (Calderaro 8). Att: 6,885.
Monaco 1 (Rui Barros 55), **Lille 1** (H Nielsen 75). Att: 4,850.
St Etienne 0, Caen 0. Att: 11,320.
Rennes 0, Nice 3 (Mege 12, Bocande 31, Poullain 53). Att: 12,790.
Paris SG 3 (Susic 11pen, Vujovic 74, Angloma 84), **Lyon 0**. Att: 20,000.
Nancy 1 (Stephen 28), **Auxerre 1** (Kovacs 78). Att: 12,907.
Sochaux 0, Toulon 0. Att: 4,136.
Brest 1 (Ferrer 2), **Montpellier 1** (Blanc 22pen). Att: 12,000.
HOLLAND
NEC 1 (Arts 18pen), **PSV 1** (Koeman 12). Att: 14,000.
Utrecht 1 (Bijl 34), **Herrenveen 2** (Verbeek 55, M de Jong 56). Att: 6,000.
Volendam 2 (Clayton 21, Berghuis 75), **RKC 0**. Att: 4,000.
Groningen 3 (Roossien 17, Holband 39, Huizingh 40), **Roda 1** (Arnold 27). Att: 11,826.
Twente 2 (Mulder 56, Ter Avest 58), Den Haag 1 (Valk 23). Att: 5,700.
Fortuna 1 (Van Helmond 47), **Ajax 1** (Winter 82). Att: 11,000.
Willem II 6 (Van der Borgt 20, Van Geel 52, 57, Stewart 59, 63, 74), **Sparta 1** (Vurens 36). Att: 6,250.
Vitesse 3 (Loeffen 43, Eijer 57, Van den Brom 89), **SVV 0**. Att: 7,500.
Feyenoord 6 (Van der Laan 1, 9, 53, 76, Kiprich 46, Sabau 60), **MVV 0**. Att: 15,009.
PORTUGAL
Beira Mar 0, Gil Vicente 0.
Maritimo 1, Guimaraes 2.
Benfica 2 (Rui Aguas 39, 55), **Penafiel 0.**
Sporting 5 (Gomes 19, 64pen, 67, Careca 44, Douglas 59), **Salgueiros 1** (Toze 73).
Porto 3 (Geraldao 41pen, 56, Domingos 89), **Boavista 1** (Marlon 48).
Tirsense 1, Belenenses 0.
Chaves 1, Estrela 3.
Braga v Uniao pstpnd.
Famalicao 0, Nacional 0.
Farense 2, Setubal 0.

SPAIN
Tenerife (Quique II 9), **Bilbao 0**. Att: 25,000.
Valladolid 1 (Damian 75), **Osasuna 1** (Urban 21). Att: 12,000.
Betis 2 (Chano 41, Mel 57), **Gijon 2** (Juan Carlos 9, Oscar 68). Att: 35,000.
Valencia 1 (Eloy 50), **At Madrid 1** (Rodax 74). Att: 45,000.
Espanol 0, Barcelona 1 (Stoichkov 42). Att: 28,000.
Real Madrid 1 (Sanchis 44), **Castellon 0**. Att: 60,000.
Oviedo 0, Sevilla 0. Att: 19,000.
Logrones 1 (Sarabia 14), **Mallorca 2** (Claudio 44, Guillermo 82). Att: 12,000.
Real Sociedad 1 (Aldridge 80pen), **Zaragoza 0**. Att: 18,000.
Burgos 1 (Barbaric 75), **Cadiz 0**. Att: 22,000.
SWITZERLAND
Aarau 1, Lugano 1.
Xamax 0, Grasshoppers 0.
St Gallen 2, Wettingen 0.
Servette 2, Luzern 3.
Sion 2, Lausanne 1.
Zurich 0, Young Boys 3.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

AUSTRIA
Wiener SK 1 (Nikischer 89), **Rapid 7** (Herzog 4, 10, Poiger 21, Pecl 68, 88, Pfeifenberger 75, 81). Att: 6,000.
Vorwarts 0, Alpine 1 (Sabitzer 20pen). Att: 3,000.
FK Austria 1 (Pleva 74), **Vienna 0**. Att: 2,000.
Admira 1 (Marschall 25), **A Salzburg 2** (Lainer 67pen, Kurbasa 70). Att: 1,200.
Krems 3 (Hold 30, Gross 50, 57), **Tirol 2** (Pacult 9, 20). Att: 3,500.
Sturm Graz 3 (Koschak 13, Wettl 44, 58), **St Polten 0**. Att: 5,000.
BELGIUM
Midweek:
Antwerp 1 (Emmerechts 71), **Anderlecht 0**. Att: 18,000.
Club Brugge 2 (Farina 42, 44), **RWDM 0**. Att: 8,000.
Weekend:
Anderlecht 0, Cercle Bruges 0. Att: 15,000
Genk 1 (Ducan 76), **Liege 0**. Att: 12,000.
FRANCE
Metz 1 (Gaillot 55), **Monaco 1** (Weah 34). Att: 14,929.
Marseille 2 (Waddle 11, Cantona 18), **Paris Saint-Germain 1** (Mozer og 15). Att: 31,626.
Bordeaux 2 (Vervoort 52, Fargeon 87), **Toulouse 1** (Delpech 81). Att: 15,000.
Nantes 1 (Robert 16), **Cannes 0**. Att: 6,500.
Caen 4 (Divert 2, 59, Germain 11, Rabes og 90), **Nancy 1** (Tarasiewicz 74). Att: 10,083.
Lille 3 (Brisson 20, H Nielsen 70, 86), **St Etienne 2** (Tibeuf 60pen, Primard 80). Att: 9,055.
Lyon 2 (Masson 72, Cabanas 88pen), **Brest 0**. Att: 21,275.
Nice 3 (Mege 7, 67, Bocande 45), **Sochaux 0**. Att: 8,000.
Auxerre 4 (Kovacs 14, 88, Dutuel 23, Cocard 30), **Rennes 0**. Att: 7,000.
Montpellier 0, Toulon 0. Att: 11,514.
HOLLAND
PSV 3 (Ellerman 48, Bosman 57pen, Popescu 82), MVV Maastricht 0. Att: 22,900.
SVV 0, Willem II 0. Att: 2,000.
Sparta 2 (Houtman 50, Valke 58), **Fortuna 2** (Meijer 49, Sneeks 80). Att: 2,500.
Ajax 1 (Bergkamp 2), **Twente 1** (Neijenhuis 37). Att: 17,000.
Den Haag 1 (Van Dijk og 85), **Groningen 2** (Roossien 17pen, Meijer 56). Att: 4,000.
Roda 2 (Trost 24, Arnold 74), **Volendam, 1** (Berghuis 17). Att: 5,500.
RKC 1 (Steinmann og 1), **Utrecht 0**. Att: 3,500.
Heerenveen 1 (Van Dijk 15), **NEC 1** (Lok 52). Att: 7,500.
Vitesse 0, Feyenoord 0. Att: 12,000.
ITALY
Atalanta 2 (Caniggia 48, Evair 55pen), **Bari 0**. Att: 18,639.
Bologna 0, Pisa 1 (Piovanelli 17). Att: 21,763.
Cagliari 0, Inter 3 (Klinsmann 58, 65, 76). Att: 32,088.
Lecce 0, Napoli 0. Att: 24,091.
Milan 1 (Agostini 72), **Genoa 0**. Att: 78,990.
Parma 1 (Melli 89pen), **Juventus 2** (Napoli 23, Baggio 61pen). Att: 18,333.
Roma 4 (Voller 17, Salsano 41, Carnevale 63pen, 65), **Fiorentina 0**. Att: 50,313.
Sampdoria 1 (Invernizzi 49), **Cesena 0**. Att: 24,321.
Torino 0, Lazio 0. Att: 36,250.
SPAIN
Sevilla 2 (Zamorano 31, Carvajal 73), **Real Madrid 0**. Att: 40,000.
Bilbao 2 (Garitano 42pen, Barbaric og 78), **Burgos 1** (Juric 21). Att: 35,000.
Osasuna 3 (Ciganda 48pen, Urban 52, 74), **Tenerife 1** (Tono 9). Att: 18,000.
Gijon 4 (Narciso 33, Yordanov 44, Luis Enrique 89, Arturo 89), **Valladolid 0**. Att: 19,000.
At Madrid 2 (Futre 46, Rodax 50), **Betis 1** (Mel 77). Att: 42,000.
Barcelona 3 (Koeman 32, Stoichkov 57, Bakero 79), Valencia 1 (Giner 65). Att: 92,500.
Castellon 1 (Alcaniz 50), **Espanol 1** (Escaich 7). Att: 12,000.
Mallorca 1 (Guillermo 46), **Oviedo 1** (Sarrigarte 64). Att: 11,000.
Zaragoza 0, Logrones 1 (Sarabia 60). Att: 25,000.
Cadiz 1 (Marcelo 89), **Real Sociedad 1** (Lasa 53). Att: 11,500.
SWITZERLAND
Midweek:
Grasshoppers 1, Lausanne 1.
Lugano 3, Xamax 0.
Servette 3, Zurich 2.
Sion 2, Aarau 1.
Wettingen 1, Luzern 2.
Young Boys 0, St Gallen 0.

WEST GERMANY
Bayern Munich 4 (Wohlfarth 43, Dorfner 48, Strunz 53, Hotic og 62), **Kaiserslautern 0**. Att: 27,000.
Wattenscheid 0, In 3 (Ordenewitz 40pen, Banach 70, 89) Att 13,000.
Borussia Dortmund 1 (MacLeod 85), **Bochum 0**. Att: 35,789.
Nurnberg 0, Karlsruhe 0. Att: 19,300.
Hertha 0, Fortuna 1 (Albertz 82). Att: 16,969.
Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Werder Bremen 0. Att: 25,000.
Hamburg 3 (Beiersdorfer 13, Nando 4, Doll 63), **Borussia Mg 0**. Att: 16,100.
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Thom 4, 46, Lupescu 76), **St Pauli 1** (Knoflicek 87pen). Att: 10,500.
Bayer Verdingen 2 (Bartram 54, Kleppinger 86), **Stuttgart 0**. Att: 9,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

AUSTRIA
Wiener SK 1 (Nikischer 89), **Rapid 7** (Herzog 4, 10, Poiger 21, Pecl 68, 88, Pfeifenberger 75, 81). Att: 6,000.
Vorwarts 0, Alpine 1 (Sabitzer 20pen). Att: 3,000.
FK Austria 1 (Pleva 74), **Vienna 0**. Att: 2,000.
Admira 1 (Marschall 25), **A Salzburg 2** (Lainer 67pen, Kurbasa 70). Att: 1,200.
Krems 3 (Hold 30, Gross 50, 57), **Tirol 2** (Pacult 9, 20). Att: 3,500.
Sturm Graz 3 (Koschak 13, Wettl 44, 58), **St Polten 0**. Att: 5,000.
BELGIUM
Midweek:
Antwerp 1 (Emmerechts 71), **Anderlecht 0**. Att: 18,000.
Club Brugge 2 (Farina 42, 44), **RWDM 0**. Att: 8,000.
Weekend:
Anderlecht 0, Cercle Bruges 0. Att: 15,000
Genk 1 (Ducan 76), **Liege 0**. Att: 12,000.
FRANCE
Metz 1 (Gaillot 55), **Monaco 1** (Weah 34). Att: 14,929.
Marseille 2 (Waddle 11, Cantona 18), **Paris Saint-Germain 1** (Mozer og 15). Att: 31,626.
Bordeaux 2 (Vervoort 52, Fargeon 87), **Toulouse 1** (Delpech 81). Att: 15,000.
Nantes 1 (Robert 16), **Cannes 0**. Att: 6,500.
Caen 4 (Divert 2, 59, Germain 11, Rabes og 90), **Nancy 1 (Tarasiewicz 74). Att: 10,083.**
Lille 3 (Brisson 20, H Nielsen 70, 86), **St Etienne 2** (Tibeuf 60pen, Primard 80). Att: 9,055.
Lyon 2 (Masson 72, Cabanas 88pen), **Brest 0**. Att: 21,275.
Nice 3 (Mege 7, 67, Bocande 45), **Sochaux 0**. Att: 8,000.
Auxerre 4 (Kovacs 14, 88, Dutuel 23, Cocard 30), **Rennes 0**. Att: 7,000.
Montpellier 0, Toulon 0. Att: 11,514.
HOLLAND
PSV 3 (Ellerman 48, Bosman 57pen, Popescu 82), **MVV Maastricht 0**. Att: 22,900.
SVV 0, Willem II 0. Att: 2,000.
Sparta 2 (Houtman 50, Valke 58), **Fortuna 2** (Meijer 49, Sneeks 80). Att: 2,500.
Ajax 1 (Bergkamp 2), **Twente 1** (Neijenhuis 37). Att: 17,000.
Den Haag 1 (Van Dijk og 85), Groningen 2 (Roossien 17pen, Meijer 56). Att: 4,000.
Roda 2 (Trost 24, Arnold 74), **Volendam, 1** (Berghuis 17). Att: 5,500.
RKC 1 (Steinmann og 1), **Utrecht 0**. Att: 3,500.
Heerenveen 1 (Van Dijk 15), **NEC 1** (Lok 52). Att: 7,500.

CONTINUED OVER

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

CONTINUED

Vitesse 0, Feyenoord 0. Att: 12,000.
ITALY
Atalanta 2 (Caniggia 48, Evair 55pen), **Bari 0.** Att: 18,639.
Bologna 0, Pisa 1 (Piovanelli 17). Att: 21,763.
Cagliari 0, Inter 3 (Klinsmann 58, 65, 76). Att: 32,088.
Lecce 0, Napoli 0. Att: 24,091.
Milan 1 (Agostini 72), **Genoa 0.** Att: 78,990.
Parma 1 (Melli 89pen), **Juventus 2** (Napoli 23, Baggio 61pen). Att: 18,333.
Roma 4 (Voller 17, Salsano 41, Carnevale 63pen, 65), **Fiorentina 0.** Att: 50,313.
Sampdoria 1 (Invernizzi 49), **Cesena 0.** Att: 24,321.
Torino 0, Lazio 0. Att: 36,250.
SPAIN
Sevilla 2 (Zamorano 31, Carvajal 73), **Real Madrid 0.** Att: 40,000.
Bilbao 2 (Garitano 42pen, Barbaric og 78), **Burgos 1** (Juric 21). Att: 35,000.
Osasuna 3 (Ciganda 48pen, Urban 52, 74), **Tenerife 1** (Tono 9). Att: 18,000.
Gijon 4 (Narciso 33, Yordanov 44, Luis Enrique 89, Arturo 89), **Valladolid 0.** Att: 19,000.
At Madrid 2 (Futre 46, Rodax 50), **Betis 1** (Mel 77). Att: 42,000.
Barcelona 3 (Koeman 32, Stoichkov 57, Bakero 79), Valencia 1 (Giner 65). Att: 92,500.
Castellon 1 (Alcaniz 50), **Espanol 1** (Escaich 7). Att: 12,000.
Mallorca 1 (Guillermo 46), **Oviedo 1** (Sarrigarte 64). Att: 11,000.
Zaragoza 0, Logrones 1 (Sarabia 60). Att: 25,000.
Cadiz 1 (Marcelo 89), **Real Sociedad 1** (Lasa 53). Att: 11,500.
SWITZERLAND
Midweek:
Grasshoppers 1, Lausanne 1.
Lugano 3, Xamax 0.
Servette 3, Zurich 2.
Sion 2, Aarau 1.
Wettingen 1, Luzern 2.
Young Boys 0, St Gallen 0.

WEST GERMANY
Bayern Munich 4 (Wohlfarth 43, Dorfner 48, Strunz 53, Hotic og 62), **Kaiserslautern 0.** Att: 27,000.
Wattenscheid 0, In 3 (Ordenewitz 40pen, Banach 70, 89). Att: 13,000.
Borussia Dortmund 1 (MacLeod 85), **Bochum 0.** Att: 35,789.
Nurnberg 0, Karlsruhe 0. Att: 19,300.
Hertha 0, Fortuna 1 (Albertz 82). Att: 16,969.
Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Werder Bremen 0. Att: 25,000.
Hamburg 3 (Beiersdorfer 13, Nando 4, Doll 63), **Borussia Mg 0.** Att: 16,100.
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Thom 4, 46, Lupescu 76), **St Pauli 1** (Knofllicek 87pen). Att: 10,500.
Bayer Uerdingen 2 (Bartram 54, Kleppinger 86), **Stuttgart 0.** Att: 9,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

AUSTRIA
Sturm Graz 3, Vorwarts 4.
Alpine 1, Vienna 4.
Tirol 3, A Salzburg 0.
Rapid 4, Krems 1.
St Polten 1, FK Austria 4.
Wiener SC 1, Admira 1.

BELGIUM
Standard 3 (Vandersmissen 7, Molnar 9, Asselman 66), **Lokeren 1** (Roover 62). Att: 10,000.
Beerschot 2 (Polley 12, Eymans 54), **Mechelen 2** (Wilmots 32, Eykelkamp 43). Att: 10,000.
Anderlecht 1 (Van Baekel 51), **Gent 1** (Viscaal 25). Att: 20,000.
Ekeren 2 (Hosmans 29, Nsumbu 89), **Liege 2** (Foguenne 15, Malbasa 56). Att: 6,000.
Lierse 0, St Truiden 0. Att: 4,000.
Club Brugge 2 (Vorspaille 4, Farina 78), **Antwerp 0.** Att: 18,000.
Charleroi 1 (Wuyts 84), **Cercle 2** (De Buyser 60, Weber 65). Att: 8,000.
Waregem 2 (Niederbacher 62, 88), **RWDM 0.** Att: 4,000.
Genk 2 (Ducan 34, Busuttil 49), **Kortrijk 0.** Att: 6,000.
FRANCE
Toulouse 0, Marseille 2 (Waddle 25, Papin 54). Att: 30,728.
Sochaux 0, Auxerre 1 (Ferrand og 50). Att: 4,542.
Paris SG 3 (Vujovic 6, Angloma 39, Susic 52), **Caen 2** (Fournier 34, Divert 89pen). Att: 23,341.
Brest 1 (Ferrer 48pen), **Metz 0.** Att: 10,000.
Nice 0, Monaco 0. Att: 12,468.
St Etienne 0, Lyon 1 (Kastendeuch og 80). Att: 26,588.
Rennes 1 (Omam Biyik 37pen), **Montpellier 2** (Valderrama 11, Blanc 42pen). Att: 9,462.
Toulon 0, Lille 0. Att: 6,000.
Nancy 3 (Gava 21, Stojkovic 25, Zavarov 72), **Nantes 2** (Loko 12, 60). Att: 10,000.
Cannes 1 (Mengual 36), **Bordeaux 1** (Vervoort 60). Att: 8,236.
HOLLAND
Feyenoord 1, PSV 1.
Willem II 0, Vitesse 0.
Fortuna 1, SVV 0.
Twente 0, Sparta 1.
Groningen 1, Ajax 2.
Volendam v Den Haag pstpnd.
Utrecht 2, Roda 1.
MVV 2, Heerenveen 0.
NEC 0, RKC 0.

ITALY
Bari 2 (Raducioiu 38, Joao Paolo 89), **Torino 1** (Muller 8).
Pisa 4 (Piovanelli 32, 86, Simeoni 50, 77).
Inter 1 (Bianchi 89), Bologna 0.
Napoli 1 (Careca 4pen), **Cagliari 2** (Rocco 34, Fonseca 70).
Genoa 3 (Onorati 11, Aguilera 43, 48pen), **Roma 0.**
Juventus 1 (Baggio 26), **Atalanta 1** (Evair 74pen).
Fiorentina 0, Sampdoria 0.
Cesena 0, Mlan 1 (Van Basten 89).
Lazio 0, Parma 0.
PORTUGAL
Midweek:
Uniao 2, Braga 1.
Weekend:
Gil Vicente 2, Farense 1.
Guimaraes 1, Beira Mar 1.
Penafiel 1, Maritimo 1.
Salgueiros 0, Benfica 3 (Valdo 13, Isaias 51, 85).
Boavista 0, Sporting 3 (Careca 13, Cadete 40, Filipe 50).
Belenenses 0, Porto 1 (Domingos 44).
Estrela 1, Tirsense 1.
Setubal 0, Famalicao 0.
Uniao 1, Chaves 1.
Nacional 1, Braga 0.

SPAIN
Tenerife 0, Gijon 0. Att: 40,000.
Bilbao 2 (Mendiguren 27, Valverde 30, **Osasuna 0.** Att: 35,000.
Valladolid 0, At Madrid 0. Att: 28,000.
Betis 2 (Valentin 79, Mel 80), **Barcelona 3** (Beguiristain 9, Stoichkov 27, Koeman 46). Att: 34,000.
Valencia 1 (Cusard 24), **Castellon 0.** Att: 29,000.
Espanol 4 (Francisco 3, Sirakov 36pen, Ogris 70, Gay 86), **Sevilla 0.** Att: 32,000.
Real Madrid 3 (Sanchez 58, 77, Butragueno 66), **Mallorca 0.** Att: 70,000.
Oviedo 2 (Bango 38, Carlos 42), **Zaragoza 1** (Pardeza 69). Att: 15,000.
Logrones 1 (Mejias 8), **Cadiz 1** (Aguila 38). Att: 18,000.
Burgos 2 (Juric 17, Balint 34), **Real Sociedad 0.** Att: 15,000.
SWITZERLAND
Grasshoppers 2, Sion 2.
Lausanne 3, Lugano 0.
Luzern 5, Zurich 1.
Xamax 2, Aarau 0.
St Gallen 1, Servette 4.
Wettingen 4, Young Boys 0.

WEST GERMANY
Kaiserslautern 3 (Hotic 29, 31, Lutz 59), **Nurnberg 1** (Lutz og 79). Att: 26,000.
Karlsruhe 2 (Geovani 40, Schutterle 62), **Uerdingen 0.** Att: 16,000.
St Pauli 1 (Golke 8), **Wattenscheid 1** (Tschiskale 41). Att: 18,000.
Werder Bremen 1 (Neubarth 39), **B Dortmund 1** (Nill 33). Att: 18,600.
Fortuna 1 (Hutwelker 89), **Bayern Munich 2** (Strunz 18, Bender 58). Att: 48,000.
Stuttgart 0, Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten 21, Schreier 58). Att: 30,000.
Koln 1 (Rudy 89), **Hamburg 0. Att: 18,000.**
Borussia Mg 1 (Max 73), **E Frankfurt 1** (Moller 62). Att: 15,400.
Bochum 4 (Rzechaczek 9, Kohn 40, Legrat 58, 90), **Hertha 2** (Rahn 34, Kruse 88). Att: 14,000.

EUROPEAN CUP RESULTS

CHAMPIONS' CUP
First round, first legs (Sep 19 unless stated)
OB Odense 1 (Per Pedersen 22)
Real Madrid 4 (Aldana 18, Sanchez 27, Villaroya 83, Maqueda 88)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 8,200. **Ref:** Sellder (EG) (played Sep 18)

Apoel 2 (Gogic 4, Pantzarias 77)
Bayern Munich 3 (Reuter 70, McInally 86, Strunz 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Petrescu (Rom).

Dinamo Bucharest 4 (Dobos 3, Damaschin 20, Mateut 40, Cheregi 82)
St Patrick's Athletic 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Kaupe (Aus).

KA Akureyri 1 (Bragason 12)
CFKA Sredets 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,208.

Lech Poznan 3 (Jakolcewicz 1, 19, Rzepka 61)
Panathinaikos 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 13,063. **Ref:** Fredrisson (Swe).

Lillestrom 1 (Halle 78)
Club Brugge 1 (Staelens 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,939.

Malmo 3 (Lindmann 29, Sandrstrom 58, Cetin Recep og 62)
Besiktas 2 (Ucar 52 and 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,580. **Ref:** Forstinger (Aus)

Marseille 5 (Papin 44pen, 69, 75, Cantona 72, Vercruysse 89)
Dinamo Tirana 1 (Tahiri 88pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000.

Napoli 3 (Baroni 35, Maradona 43, 77)
Ujpest Dozsa 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel).

Porto 5 (Geraldao 7, Paille 16, 75, Kostadinov 32, Branco 48)
Portadown 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 5,000 (in Setubal).

Red Star 1 (Binic 44)
Grasshoppers 1 (Koezle 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Longhi (It).

Sparta 0
Spartak Moscow 2 (Shalimov 25, Shmarov 58)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swz)

Tirol 5 (Pacult 41, 58, 80, Gorosito 29, Prudio 35)
Kuusysi 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 7,250.

Valetta 0
Rangers 4 (McCoist 16pen, 67, Johnston 75, 79)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.

CUP-WINNERS' Cup
Plm round, first leg (Aug 22)
Bray Wanderers 1 (Nugent 52)
Trabzonspor 1 (Djukic 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Piroux (Bel). At Tolka Pk, Dublin.
Bray: Moran – McKeever, Cosgrave, Doohan, Judge, Philips,Nugent, MacAuley (Parsons 80), Smith, Ryan, Corcoran (Lynch 57).
Trabzonspor: Petranovic – Ogun, Hamdi, Kemal, Sehmuz, Orhan, Unal (Tyrgut 46), Ivanovic, Soner, Hami, Djukic.

Plm round, second leg (Sep 5)
Trabzonspor 2 (Djukic 47, Hamdi 60)
Bray Wanderers 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Porimboiu (Rom)
Trabzonspor 3-1 on agg
Trabzonspor: Levent – Sehmuz, Ogun, Kemal, Mehmet – Unal, Soner, Lemi (Orhan 46), Hami – Djukic (Turgut 75), Hamdi.
Bray: Moran – McKeever, Doohan, Philips, Cosgrave, Smith, Reynolds (Parsons 56), Judge, Lynch (Cairns 88), Nugent, Ryan.

First round, first legs (Sept 19 unless stated)
Sliema Wanderers 1 (Walker 49)
Dukla Praha 2 (Rada 33, Kostelnik 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Played Sept 18.**
Estrela Amadora 1 (Ricky Ovuburiki 26)
Neuchatel Xamax 1 (Beat Sutter 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Constantin (Bel).

Fram 3 (Ragnarsson 56, 58, Ormslev 85)
Djurgardens 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 637.

Glentoran 1 (Douglas 84)
Steaua Bucharest 1 (Stan 47pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Holleng (Nor).

Kaiserslautern 1 (Kuntz 77)
Sampdoria (holders) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol).

KPT 2 (Hyssonen 38, Gayle 89)
Kiev Dynamo 2 (Salenkov 11, Yuran 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,460.

Legia Warsaw 3 (Kosecki 48, 79, L Pisz 89)
Swift Hesperange 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,172.

Manchester United 2 (Blackmore 8, Webb 16)
Pecsi Munkas 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 28,411. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol).

Olympiakos 3 (Anastopulos 9, 69, Hadjidis 25)
Flamurtari 1 (Ziu 75)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.

PSV Schwerin 0
FK Austria 2 (Milewskij 34, Zsak 36)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 835.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

BRAZIL: Sao Paulo State League (final group standings)
Group A: 1) Bragantino 18 points; 2) Corinthians 17; 3) Santos 15; 4) Botafogo (S.P.) 12; 5) Ituano 10; 6) Mogi Mirim 9; 7) XV de Jau 3.
Group B: 1) Novorizontino 16; 2) Palmeiras, Guarani 15; 4) Portuguesa 12; 5) America (S.P.) 11; 6) XV de Piracicaba 10; 7) Ferroviaria 5. (Group Winners play in final).

BOLIVIA: National Championship (2nd stage – one game to go). Group A: 1) Bolivar, San Jose 17 points; 3) Oriente Petrolero 16; 4) Jorge Wilsterman 14 – top four already qualified for final round; 5) Ciclon 9; 6) Real Santa Cruz 8. Group B: 1) The Strongest, Independiente Petrolero 13 – already qualified; 3) Destroyer (one game less) 9; 4) Blooming (one game less) 7; 5) San Pedro 5.

PARAGUAY: First Division (3rd stage – final)
Group A: 1) Nacional, Colegiales 7; 3) Guarani 6; 4) Cerro Porteno (played one less) 4; 5) Libertad (pl.one less) 3; 6) Sport Colombia 1. Group B: 1) Olimpia 7; 2) Sol de America, San Lorenzo 6; 4) River Plate, Sportivo Luqueno 5; 6) Atletico Tembetary 1. (Group winners qualify for final round, Nacional on goals.)

COLOMBIA: Professional Championship (2nd stage) 1) Independiente Medellin 15 points; 2) Caldas, Tolima 12; 4) Bucaramanga, America, Millonarios 10; 7) Dep. Cali, Independiente Santa Fe, Pereira 8; 10) Cucuta 7; 11) Nacional Medellin, Sporting Barranquilla, Quindio 6; 14) Union Magdalena 5; 15) Junior Barranquilla 3. Overall: 1) America 29 points; 2) Independiente Medellin 27; 3) Millonarios, Independiente Santa Fe 24; 5) Nacional, Bucaramanga 23; 7) Caldas 21; 8) Tolima, Dep.Cali 20; 10) Quindio 18; 11) Pereira 17; 12) Junior, Union Magdalena 16; 14) Sporting 15; 15) Cucuta 13.

ECUADOR: First Division (1st stage – final) 1) Nacional 34 points; 2) Barcelona (goals plus 20) 26; 3) Deportivo Quito (plus 16) 26; 4) Emelec (plus 9) 25; 5) Liga Univ.de Quito (0) 25; 6) Delfin 23; 7) Cuenca, Tecnico Universitario 22; 9) Filanbanco 20; 10) Aucas 18; 11) Macara 16; 12) Juventus 7.

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ.Catolica	6	5	0	1	22	10	11
Colo Colo	6	2	4	0	12	6	10
O'Higgins	6	3	1	2	12	9	8
Cobresal	6	2	3	1	7	4	7
Dep.Iquique	6	3	0	3	11	15	6
Fernandez V	6	1	4	1	8	6	6
Cobreloa	6	2	2	2	9	11	6
La Serena	6	2	2	2	7	7	6
Huachipato	6	2	2	2	7	9	6
U Espanola	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Wanderers	6	1	3	2	8	11	5
Palestine	6	2	1	3	10	10	5
Naval	6	1	3	2	6	8	5
Univ de Chile	6	1	3	2	7	9	5
Everton	6	1	3	2	6	8	5
Concepcion	6	1	3	2	6	13	5

● Colo Colo two bonus points, Universidad Catolica, O'Higgins and Union Espanola one each for taking leading places in pre-season championship.

COSTA RICA: First Division final round After 5 games; 1) Uruguay 7 points; 2) Saprissa, Alajuelense 6; 4) Herediano, Cartagnes 4; 6) Limon 3.

HONDURAS: First Division 1) Marathon 28 points; 2) Espana 27; 3) Olimpia 26; 4) Platense, Motagua 19; 6) Super Estrella, Sula, Vida 15; 9) Tela-Timsa 13; 10) Victoria 12.

GUATEMALA: First Division 1) Comunicaciones 19 points; 2) Chiquimulilla, Municipal 17; 4) Suchitepequez, Galcasa 16; 6) Juventud Retalteca 15; 7) Del Monte 14; 8) Escuintla 13; 9) Aurora 12; 10) Tipografia Nacional 10; 11) Deportes Jalapa 9; 12) Xelaju 8.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FK Austria	12	8	2	2	30	10	18
Tirol	12	8	1	3	30	13	17
Rapid	12	7	3	2	29	13	17
Salzburg	12	7	1	4	2	16	15
Sturm Graz	12	6	2	4	26	14	14
Vorwaerts	12	5	3	4	19	17	13
Alpine	12	3	5	4	16	21	11
Vienna	12	3	4	5	18	26	10
Sportclub	12	4	1	7	15	22	9
Krems	12	2	5	5	10	23	9
Admira	12	2	3	7	7	20	7
St.Poelten	12	1	2	9	8	35	4

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brugge	5	5	0	0	8	0	10
Standard	6	4	2	0	15	4	10
Ghent	5	4	1	0	12	5	9
Charleroi	5	3	1	1	9	4	7
Waregem	6	2	2	2	8	4	6
Anderlecht	6	2	2	2	11	7	6
Cercle	6	2	2	2	5	8	6
Molenbeek	6	2	1	3	7	7	5
Mechelen	5	2	1	2	9	10	5
Antwerp	5	2	1	2	6	8	5
Genk	5	2	1	2	4	7	5
Ekeren	6	1	3	2	10	10	5
Lokeren	6	2	0	4	6	9	4
Kortrijk	6	2	0	4	8	13	4
FC Liege	6	1	2	3	6	8	4
Lierse	6	1	2	3	4	8	4
St Truiden	6	1	2	3	5	10	4
Beerschot	6	0	3	3	7	18	3

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	19	15	3	1	40	9	33
B1903	19	9	6	4	35	18	24
Silkeborg	19	8	7	4	28	18	23
Frem	19	5	11	3	26	18	21
Ikast	19	8	5	6	26	21	21
Aab	19	7	5	7	20	21	19
AGF	19	5	8	6	16	21	18
Lyngby	19	5	7	7	24	26	17
OB	19	6	5	8	17	21	17
Naestved	19	5	7	7	16	22	17
Vejle	19	4	8	7	21	24	16
Herfolge	19	4	7	8	16	28	15
KB	19	4	5	10	18	35	13
Viborg	19	4	4	11	13	33	12

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	10	7	2	1	16	6	16
Monaco	10	4	5	1	11	7	13
Auxerre	9	4	4	1	14	5	12
Lyon	10	4	4	2	8	8	12
Caen	10	4	3	3	14	9	11
Paris-SG	10	4	3	3	18	15	11
Brest	10	3	5	2	11	8	11
Lille	10	3	5	2	12	11	11
Montpellier	9	4	2	3	16	8	10
Metz10	3	4	3	12	12	10	
Bordeaux	10	3	4	3	7	8	10
Nantes	10	3	4	3	10	12	10
Nice	10	2	5	3	8	8	9
Cannes	10	3	3	4	7	9	9
Toulouse	10	3	3	4	9	12	9
Toulon	10	2	4	4	7	10	8
Nancy	10	2	3	5	8	17	7
Rennes	10	2	3	5	4	15	7
Sochaux	10	2	2	6	6	11	6
St-Etienne	10	2	2	6	6	14	6

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Salamina 0
Aberdeen 2 (Mason 62, Gillhaus 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Streng (Rom).

Sliven 0
Juventus 2 (Schillaci 26, Baggio 88pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,600. **Ref:** Van Swieten (Hol).

Trabzonspor 1 (Hamdi 68)
Barcelona 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,500. **Ref:** Nemeth (Hun).

Viking Stavanger 0
FC Liege 2 (Boffin 15, Hernes 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,845.

Wrexham 0
Lyngby 0
Att: 3,417. **Ref:** Van den Wijnaert (Bel).

Montpellier 1 (Ziober 54)
PSV Eindhoven 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Assenmacher (WG). Played: Sep 20

UEFA CUP
First round, first legs (Sep 19 unless stated)
Avenir Beggen 2 (Krahn 36, 41)
Inter Slovnaft 1 (Stojka 4)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,000. Played Sept 18

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Helmer 20, Mill 89)
Chemnitz 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Martin Navarrete (Sp). Played Sept 18

Glenavon 0
Bordeaux 0
Att: 4,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor). Played Sept 18

Hafnarfjordur 1 (Bjorn Jonsson 2)
Dundee Utd 3 (Jackson 32, Cleland 77, Jonsson og 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 213. **Ref:** Loughins (NI). Played Sept 18

Hibernians Malta 0
Partizan 3 (Djurdjevic 15, Djordjevic 81, Mijatovic 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. Played Sept 18

Roda 1 (Arnold 40)
Monaco 3 (Weah 27, Passi 44, Dib 88)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Larsson (Swe). Played Sept 18

Sporting Club 1 (Cadete 37)
Mechelen 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Hope (Scot). Played Sept 18

Anderlecht 2 (Verheyen 64, Nilis 85pen)
Petrolul Ploesti 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Sp).

Antwerp 0
Ferencvaros 0
Att: 4,500. **Ref:** Silva Valente (Por). Played Sep 20.

Aston Villa 3 (Platt 31, Mountfield 58, Olney 79)
Banik Ostrava 1 (Chylek 30)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 27,317. **Ref:** Neuner (WG).

Atalanta 0
Dinamo Zagreb 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den).

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 41)
Twente Enschede 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Cooper (Wal).

Brondby 5 (Christensen 54, 83, Oke Chukwu 9, Christofte 63pen, Madsen 80)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,400. **Ref:** Waddle (Sco).

Chernomorets Odessa 3 (Tsymbalar 3, Getsko 48, Kondratiev 58)
Rosenborg 1 (Serlos 79)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,500.

Derry 0
Vitesse 1 (Loeffen 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Delmer (Fr)

Dnepr 1 (Gudimenko 56)
Hearts 1 (Robertson 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,500. **Ref:** Ftckler (WG).

Fenerbahce 3 (Vokri 34, Turan 40, Senol 62)
Victoria Guimaraes 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Gregr (Cz).

GKS Katowice 3 (Heikkinen og 18, Strojek 54, Prabucki 81)
TPs 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,037.

Iraklis Salonika 0
Valencia 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Girard (Fr).

Lausanne 3 (Hottiger 50, 89, Chapuisat 78)
Real Sociedad 2 (Lumbreras 17, Gajate 28)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,600. **Ref:** Rossner (EG).

Magdeburg 0
RoPs 0
Att: 3,250.

Moscow Torpedo 4 (Gitselov 15, Tishkov 26, 32, Grishin 44)
GAIS 1 (Geransson 76)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 2,000.

MTK/VM 1 (Cservenkai 44)
Luzern 1 (Knup 17)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Gifford (Wal).

Norrkoping 0
Ktln 0
Att: 10 ˙ 33. **Ref:** Van Langenhove (Bel).

Partizani 0
Un Craiova 1 (Ciurea 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,200. **Ref:** Vautrot (Fr).

Politehnica Timisoara 2 (Bungau 43pen, A Popescu 65)
Atletico Madrid 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Namoglu (Tur)

Rapid 2 (Pfeifenberger 56, Franz Weber 72)
Internazionale 1 (Matths-

Roma 1 (Carnevale 1)
Benfica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Roethlisberger (Swz).

Sevilla 0
PAOK 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus).

Slavia Sofia 2 (Petkov 5, Ignatov 82)
Omonia Nicosia 1 (Micinec 68)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000.

Vejle 0
Admira Wacker 1 (Binder 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,400.

Zaglebie Lubin 0
Bologna 1 (Bonini 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Lund-Sorensen (Den).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP 1988-90

Sep 5 – Sarajevo – Final, 1st leg
Yugoslavia 2 (Suker 21, Jarni 64)
Sov Union 4 (Sidelnikov 9, 47, Chernishev 42, Dobrovolski 84pen)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** D'Elia (It)
OTHER MATCHES
Aug 15: France U21 2, Poland U21 2.
Aug 21: Eintracht Frankfurt 3, Poland 1.
Aug 24: Lge of Ireland 2, Australia 2.
Aug 29: Czechoslovakia U21 2, Australia 0.
CLUB TOURNAMENTS
Dynasty Cup (Beijing): S Korea 2, Japan 0; China 2, N Korea 0; S Korea 1, N Korea 0; China 1, Japan 0; N Korea 1, Japan 0; S Korea 1, China 0. Final: China 1, S Korea 1 (S Korea 5-4 on pens).
Budapest: Videoton 2, Newcastle 1; Ferencvaros 1; Brugge 0. **3rd place:** Newcastle 2, Brugge 0. **Final:** Ferencvaros 1, Videoton 1 (5-4 pens).
Mediterranean Tmt (Genoa): Torino 2, At Madrid 2; Marseille 1, At Madrid 1; Torino 2, Genoa 0; Marseille 3, Genoa 3.
Marlboro Cup (New York): US 0, Flamengo 1; Alianza 1, Sporting Lisbon 0.
Wembley: 3rd pl: Real Sociedad 1, A Villa 0. **Final:** Sampdoria 1, Arsenal 0.
Barcelona: Espanol 2, Real Madrid 2 (Real Madrid on pens).
Colombino (Huelva): Bilbao 1, At Madrid 0; Huelva 3, Betis 1. **3rd pl:** At Madrid 1, Betis 1. **Final:** Bilbao 2, Huelva 0.
Joan Gamper (Barcelona): PSV 0, Anderlecht 3; Barcelona 1, Spartak Moscow 0. **3rd pl:** Spartak 1, PSV 2. **Final:** Barcelona 3, Anderlecht 1.
La Linea: Cadiz 2, Lazio 3; Real Madrid 2, Penarol 1. **3rd pl:** Penarol 2, Cadiz 0. **Final:** Lazio 1, Real Madrid 1 (Lazio on pens).
Naranja (Valencia): Valencia 5, CSKA Sofia 0; Real Madrid 3, CSKA 1; Valencia 1, Real Madrid 7. **Winners:** Real Madrid.
Palma: Mallorca 3, Legia 2; Real Madrid 4, TSKA Moscow 2. **3rd pl:** TSKA 2, Legia 0. **Final:** Real Madrid 1, Mallorca 0.
Ramon de Carranza (Cadiz): Cadiz 1, Santos 1; At Madrid 1, At Mineiro 1. 3rd pl: Cadiz 1. At Madrid 1. **Final:** At Mineiro 1, Santos 0.
San Sebastian: Real Sociedad 2, Twente 0; Twente 1, Man City 0; Real Sociedad 1, Man City 1. **Winners:** Real Sociedad.
Teresa Herrera (La Coruna): Benfica 2, Bayern Munich 1; La Coruna 0, Barcelona 2. **3rd pl:** La Coruna 2, Bayern 3. **Final:** Barcelona 2, Benfica 0.
Trofeo Santiago Bernabeu: Real Madrid 1, Milan 3.
Valencia: Hearts 1, Valencia 3; Levante 0, Hearts 0; Valencia 5; Levante 0. **Winners:** Valencia.
Zaragoza: Zaragoza 1, Betis 1; Betis 1, Moscow Dynamo 3; Zaragoza 1, Dynamo 1. **Winners:** Moscow Dynamo.
FULL INTERNATIONALS
SATURDAY, JULY 28
July 28 × Milwaukee – intl friendly
United States 1 (Eck 89)
East Germany 2 (Gerlach 35, Rische 44)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 12,572. **Ref:** Kleinitas (US)
US: Meola – Trittschuh, Balboa, Armstrong (Stollmeyer 68), Windischmann – Bliss, Harkes, Eichmann (Eck 67), Krumpe – Wynalda (Gyau 46), Murray.
E Germany: Weisgarber – Enge, Hofschneider, Marx, Wenschlag (Dabritz 84) – Linke (Schmidt 89), Gerlach (Weitze 78), Prause, Schreiber (Eschler 78) – Rath, Rische.
The Americans' first game after

NEWCOMER HATELEY CAUSES A PROBLEM

Mark Hateley aims to turn the jeers to cheers.

By Alan Fairley

BIG MONEY signings are not often subjected to booing and catcalls in their first few games for their new club.

But that was the unusual experience that befell Mark Hateley, sold by Monaco to Glasgow Rangers for £600,000 during the close season.

This gave manager Graeme Souness a triple strike force – all internationals – of Scotland's Maurice Johnston and Ally McCoist plus England's Hateley.

Most managers would be glad to have the problem of deciding which two to field, but Souness was not helped by the unfriendly reception Hateley was given in the pre-season friendlies.

Some fans were upset at the decision to leave long-time favourite McCoist on the bench.

"I've been in the game long enough not to let that sort of thing trouble me," said Hateley. "But it has an effect on my family."

Goals against Dunfermline and East Stirling during the early League and Skol Cup fixtures went some way towards helping Hateley gain acceptance by the Ibrox followers.

And in the Skol Cup quarter-final, at home to Raith Rovers, Souness fielded all three strikers from the start. The result was a convincing 6-2 victory and further ammunition for those who subscribe to the theory that fortune favours the brave.

It is indeed a brave manager who, bearing in mind the nature of modern playing patterns, fields a side with three men committed to scoring goals, and it remains to be seen whether Rangers will be inclined to persevere with such an ambitious tactical strategy in the considerably more demanding Premier League.

The Ibrox management are keeping an open mind.

Hateley, who played with Portsmouth and Milan before joining Monaco, appears quite happy with his move to Glasgow and is confident that he can establish himself as he tries to contribute towards the club's ultimate goal – success on the European stage.

Jim Farry is concerned about the growing violence on the field.

McMUSCLE

They're far too tough for Farry

Celtic's Dariusz Wdowczyk sent-off against Motherwell.

By Alan Fairley

NEW Scottish FA secretary Jim Farry did not wait long to make his mark.

"I'm fed up with managers coming out with expressions like 'I want my players to die for me'," said Farry after the disastrous opening day.

Eight players were sent off and 61 more were cautioned in the 19 matches spread over three divisions.

And this despite the fact that SFA have begun an official "crusade" against on-field violence.

The most publicised of the many incidents was the encounter between Motherwell and Celtic at Fir Park, where Polish international defender Dariusz Wdowczyk was ordered off just before half-time, sparking a heated trackside exchange between managers Billy McNeill and Tommy McLean.

The remainder of the game was punctuated with a series of personal vendettas before two late goals gave the home side victory over Celtic's remaining ten.

Despite the acquisition of quality players such as John Collins, Martin Hayes and Charlie Nicholas during the summer, Celtic had a particularly bad start. The Motherwell defeat was followed by a comprehensive 3-0 humiliation at home to a rejuvenated Aberdeen. So for the first time in 40 years Celtic did not take a point from their first two games.

The fans were prepared for the possibility that the new look side would take time to settle, but in view of the club's lack of success in recent times, patience can not be guaranteed for long.

By contrast, Aberdeen are beginning to look more like the team who dominated Scottish football in the early 1980s.

They are delighted with Peter Van Der Ven, a powerfully built attacking midfielder signed from Holland's Willem 11, who has joined fellow countrymen Hans Gillhaus, Theo Snelders and Willem Van der Ark at Pittodrie.

The manner in which Van der Ven took his goal against Hearts in the Skol Cup was indicative of his skill.

Scotland coach Andy Roxburgh has expressed concern at the increasing number of overseas players in Scottish football but his views will win little sympathy in the Aberdeen area.

Champions Rangers, no strangers to foreign signings, have jumped on the Dutch bandwagon by acquiring Peter Huistra from Twente Enschede. Huistra is an exciting midfielder who provides Trevor Steven with more scope.

The introduction of two more Englishmen, Mark Hateley from Monaco and Terry Hurlock from Millwall, has given Rangers a look of near invincibility.

And the transfer of Soviet World Cup defender Oleg Kuznetsov from Dynamo Kiev has still to be finalised.

Dundee United, whose fortunes have slid considerably since their run to the UEFA Cup Final in 1987, appear to have unearthed a genuine gem in 16-year-old Christian Dailly.

He scored three times in his first three appearances this season.

But Aberdeen are the only side that have the artillery to affect a meaningful and sustained challenge to Rangers.

NEXT MONTH IN

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b. Tom Waits
c. Jason Donovan

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